

**SPORTS REVIEW**

February 1984

47817  \$1.50

# Wrestling



*The Tommy Rich-Buzz Sawyer Feud  
Reaches A Bloody End:*

## **THE LAST BATTLE OF ATLANTA**

*The Savagery Of A Bullrope Match:  
AUSTIN IDOL BEATS STAN HANSEN  
AT HIS OWN BRUTAL GAME!*

*Mil Mascaras & Dos Caras'  
One-Night Reunion:*  
**THE BROTHER TAG TEAM  
THAT CANNOT SURVIVE**

**KANSAS CITY CHAOS:  
A NIGHT OF SUPERSTAR ACTION**

**SPORTS REVIEW INTERVIEW:  
MIKE ROTONDO**

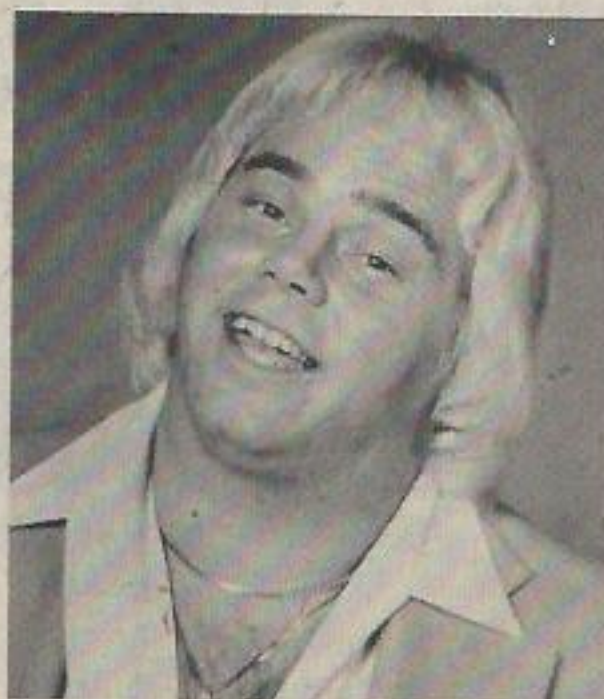




# THE TATTLER

**P**ORTLAND, OR—The biggest news here is that the team of Playboy Buddy Rose and Curt Hennig defeated Rip Oliver and The Assassin for the Pacific Northwest heavyweight title.

"I have to admit, I was a little worried at first about having Buddy as a partner, but he completely convinced me that he's sincere about his new attitude toward wrestling," Hennig told *The Tattler*. "We spent a few weeks in special training, working on some new moves and maneuvers and polishing up some old ones. I



**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE**

really think the title victory was very simply the result of hard work. No tricks, no gimmicks. We won the belts the old-fashioned way: We earned them!"

In another Pacific Northwest development, Jules Strongbow used the Indian Deathlock to break the leg of Mean Mike Miller. Strongbow apologized for breaking Miller's leg, but pointed out that he's tired of being overlooked for main-event matches. He hopes that as a result of the incident, people will begin to sit up and take notice of him as a fine wrestler in his own right.

Meanwhile, Miller is having a little bit of trouble sitting up at all. He now has seven screws in his leg.

—Andy Rankowski

## CORRESPONDENTS

<b>Larry Cohen</b> Chicago, Ill.	<b>Kevin McCloud</b> Boston, Mass.	<b>George Hawkins</b> Bangor, Me.
<b>Warren Knowles</b> Seattle, Wash.	<b>Leroy Jackson</b> Detroit, Mich.	<b>Ed Remington</b> Indianapolis, Ind.
<b>Allison Corey</b> New York, N.Y.	<b>Danny Torres</b> Los Angeles, Ca.	<b>Diane Goh</b> Honolulu, Hi.
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<b>Buddy Ford</b> St. Louis, Mo.	<b>Paul Dreiser</b> Pittsburgh, Pa.	<b>John West</b> Baltimore, Md.
<b>Masanori Murikami</b> Tokyo, Japan	<b>Carl Salinger</b> Richmond, Va.	<b>Ellen Larsen</b> Charlotte, N.C.
<b>Andy Rankowski</b> Portland, Ore.	<b>Geoffrey York</b> Toronto, Canada	<b>Butch Gallagher</b> San Francisco, Ca.
<b>Myron Roth</b> Miami, Fla.	<b>Charles F. Amberson</b> St. Paul, Minn.	<b>Virginia W. Sloan</b> Amarillo, Tex.
<b>Clifford Douglas</b> Denver, Colo.	<b>Cedric Coleridge</b> Sydney, Australia	<b>Randy Swift</b> Memphis, Tenn.
		<b>Barry Simon</b> Tampa, Fla.

**C**OLUMBUS, GA—Fans all around the Georgia wrestling area are wildly cheering every move made by "Mad Dog" Buzz Sawyer.

On a recent wrestling card in the Municipal Auditorium in Columbus, Buzz was scheduled to wrestle the "American Dream" Dusty Rhodes. The match would never take place.

In the previous match, The Road Warriors ran in and attacked National heavyweight  
(Continued on page 54)

*Never before have so many respected wrestling journalists been involved in so important a venture. The best correspondents from all over the world have been enlisted to report on the news behind the news. Each month, our team of reporters will bring you the most up-to-date news available from all corners of the globe*



# The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans.

Because of this, we're now giving these experts a forum for their views month, we'll ask a controversial question answer—no matter what those answers might be!

and opinions. Each and have the fans

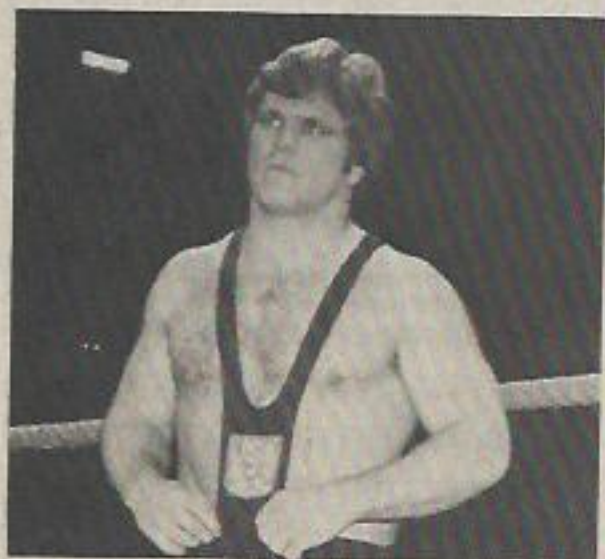
## THE QUESTION:

"Who is your favorite young wrestler?"

## THE ANSWERS:

*Carol Farrington, Louisville, KY:* "I love watching The Jaguar wrestle. He moves like a cat. One second he's on one side of the ring, and the next second he's on the other side. His flying maneuvers are really exciting. And he's unpredictable, too. You never know what he's going to do next. I know he's only a rookie, but I think he could give any of the champions a good challenge."

*Bob Shelly, Minneapolis:* "Brad Rheingans has improved so much



The quickly improving Brad Rheingans has a good chance to become AWA champion, according to Bob Shelly of Minneapolis.

in the last year. He seems to be more confident in the ring these days. In the past, he hesitated a lot. He didn't seem to have any faith in his abilities. Maybe he just needed some time to get used to the pros. I was really pleased with the effort he put in against Nick Bockwinkel. I can't wait for Brad to become the next AWA champion. I think it might happen pretty soon. He's gonna be great."

*Corinne Bassett, Auburn, AL:* "Scott Armstrong is just the best. He has everything going for him. He has so much talent, and he has his brother, Brad, and his father, Bob, to help him along. I think that with Brad and Bob's help, Scott will be a superstar. How can he miss?"

*Mike Fisher, Atlanta:* "Who else could it be but Brett Wayne? If the Dallas Cowboys and the Atlanta Braves are America's teams, Brett is America's wrestler. I've practically watched him grow up in the few months he's been wrestling here in Georgia. I was really happy when he won the National title. I think I was happier because he managed to get rid of Larry Zbyszko."

*Suzanne LaCassa, Syracuse, NY:* "Eddie Gilbert. What I like about him is that he keeps coming back. After his car accident, he trained



The courage and determination Eddie Gilbert displayed this year endeared him to Syracuse, New York's Suzanne LaCassa.

hard until he thought he was ready to get back in the ring. Then the Masked Superstar broke his neck. But he's coming back again, and this time he has a reason to come back—revenge!"

*Johnny Ray Maddox, Amarillo, TX:* "That Al Perez is some wrestler. I like the way he handles himself in the ring. For a kid, he's got

(Continued on page 58)



# TOP WRESTLE YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review Wrestling* will publish a fan's

"Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

**ASK THE STARS**  
Sports Review Wrestling  
Box 48  
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

## THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

**"What is your most powerful weapon in the ring?"**

**Submitted by:  
Tammy Grayson,  
Northbrook, IL**



**ANDRE THE GIANT**

"I would have to say that my greatest weapon is, of course, my size. I want to stress, however, that size alone doesn't make someone a great wrestler. I feel it's what the person accomplishes with their size that determines how successful they are going to be. You could be as big as the Empire State Building and lose every time. You have to know how to use your weapons."



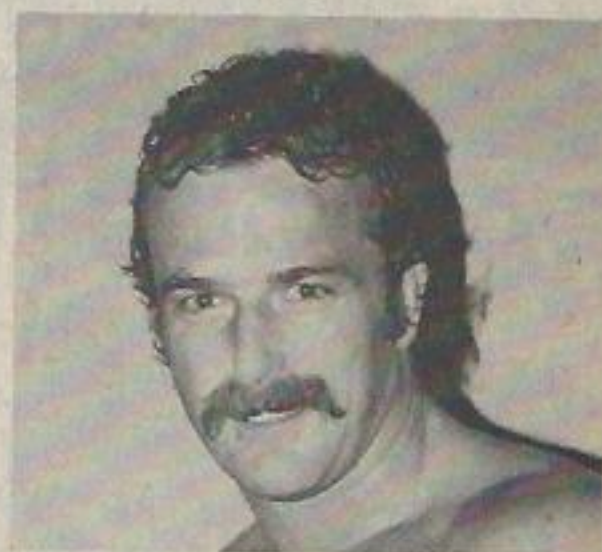
**MASKED SUPERSTAR**

"We all saw on television what I did to Eddie Gilbert, and we all saw what happened to Bobby Backlund in Madison Square Garden. My corkscrew neckbreaker is the most lethal weapon in professional wrestling. Anyone who dares to get into the ring with me is risking his own life."



**BARRY WINDHAM**

"It has to be the lariat. When I execute the lariat, I throw everything I've got into it. Once I start it, there's no turning back. My height [6'5"] gives me the leverage to make the maneuver extremely dangerous, but the secret is how to set your opponent up for it. Now I better shut up before I give away all my secrets."



**JAKE ROBERTS**

"No one has ever, and no one will ever, survive the DDT. When I smash my opponent's head into the canvas, the impact is devastating. What I like about it even more, though, is the sickening thud his head makes when it hits. It's disgusting and I love it. Wrestling is a great sport, isn't it?"

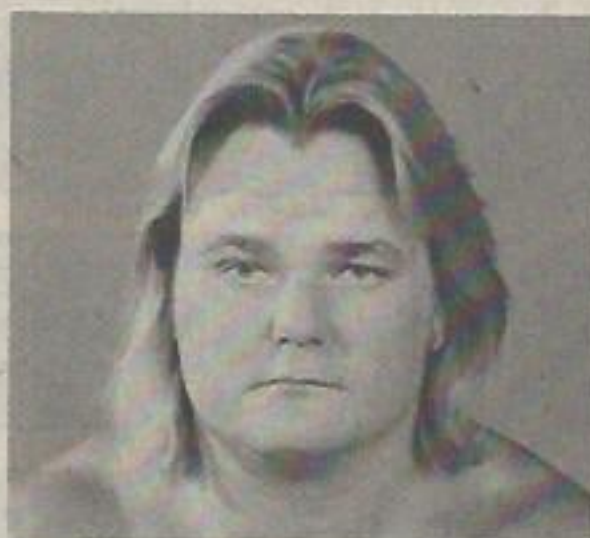


# WRESTLERS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



**JIMMY SNUKA**

"My superfly leap has won more matches for me than anything else, brother. It's such a feeling of power to stand on the top turnbuckle while my opponent is lying in the middle of the ring. And the higher I go, the better it is. I would have great respect for any man who could continue to wrestle after being hit with the superfly."



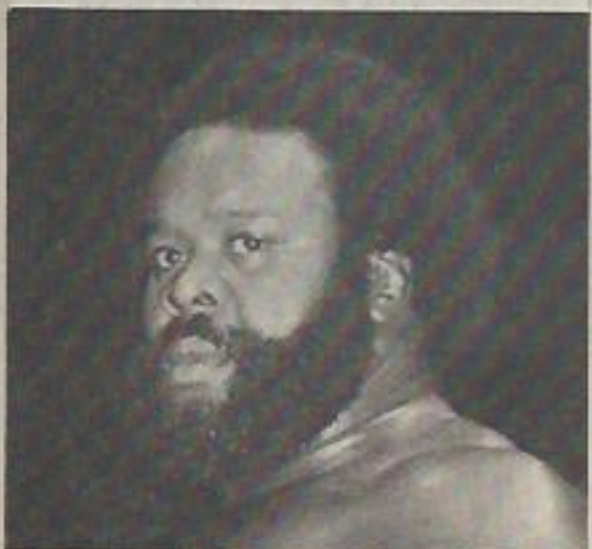
**GREG VALENTINE**

"See this elbow? This elbow is my success. This elbow is my meal ticket. It wins matches for me, and it makes money for me. The hammer, babe. The hammer is the most brutal weapon not only in my repertoire, but in all of professional wrestling. I challenge anyone to prove that it isn't."



**DAVID VON ERICH**

"The clawhold has been passed down from my father to me and my brothers. It's a scientific hold. Not everyone can use the claw. It has to be placed properly, and that takes a lot of practice. We have been trained by the best, Fritz Von Erich. It's my favorite hold and the most potent weapon I have."



**JUNKYARD DOG**

"My most powerful weapon isn't in the ring. It isn't even something I can control. It's the fans. When they cheer for me, it's like spinach is for Popeye. My strength grows by leaps and bounds. And the more they cheer, the stronger I get. The fans are the reason I win matches. They're my strongest weapon."



**KEN PATERA**

"Power. Do you know what it feels like to know that you have the power to destroy any man who steps in the ring with you? To know that you can break his bones? To know that you can snap his neck in half whenever you feel like it? It's an indescribable feeling. It's the ultimate confidence."



**JERRY LAWLER**

"Sure, Jess Ventura has a powerful body, and Stan Hansen has his lariat, but who ever said that wrestling was all strength and and power? It's all in the mind. I've beaten more men with my mind than I have with my piledriver. You have to think on your feet in this sport. The power of the mind, that's my most powerful weapon." □



# SCRAPBOOK

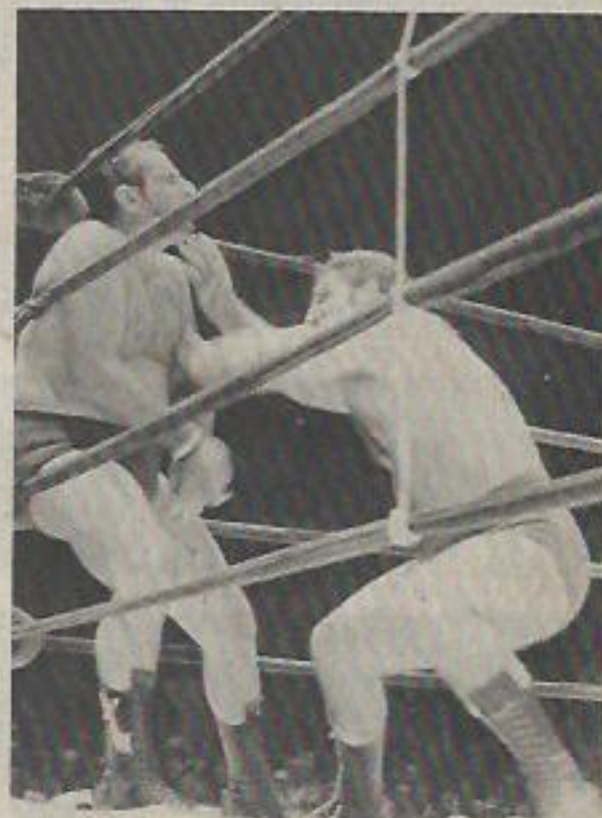
Compiled by Joseph Bua

## NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 1968

Unruly fans in Tampa, Florida, played a major part in a match between the Masked Goliath and fan favorite Eddie Graham. Graham picked up a six-inch length of chain thrown into the ring, thinking that Goliath had brought it into the ring to use against him. Despite Goliath's claim that the chain was not his, an enraged Graham began to mercilessly pound Goliath. To prevent the crowd from rioting, the referee disqualified an innocent Goliath and awarded the bout to Graham ... Fred Blassie and Buddy Austin began a bloody

feud when Blassie accused Austin of not contributing enough to their tag team matches ... In a Texas Death Match, Waldo Von Erich blinded Tex McKenzie with a mysterious cloud of white smoke. The smoke billowed out of a plastic package that Von Erich had pulled out of his trunks ... After having his ribs fractured and ligaments and tendons in his shoulder ripped by the Red Raider, a young, determined Dory Funk Jr. unmasked the Raider in the rematch. The Red Raider disappeared from the sport after the match ... Promoters try to plan a matchup between NWA champion Gene Kiniski and WWF champion Bruno Sammartino ... Sammartino de-

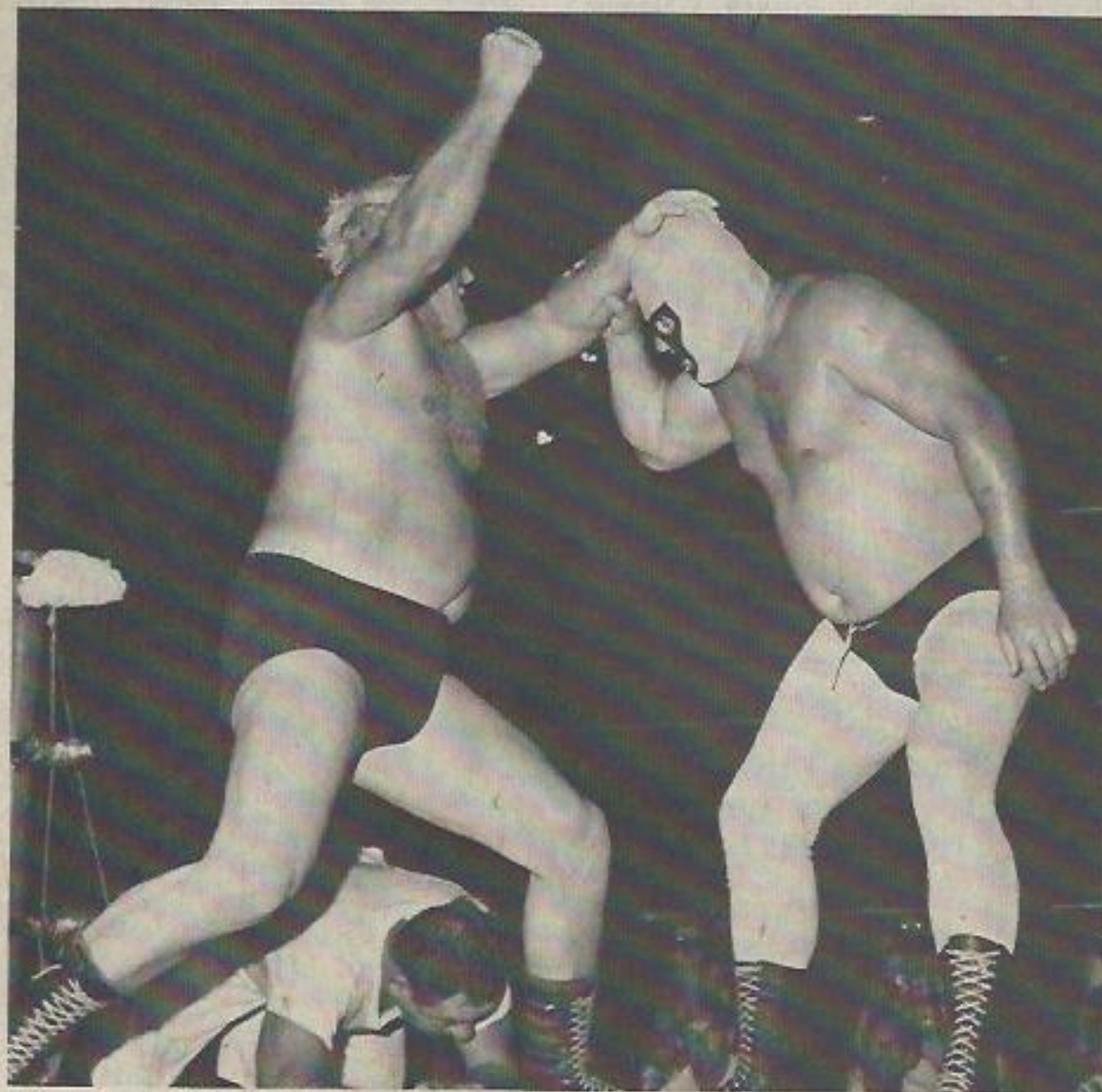
fended his title successfully against The Sheik in front of 10,000 fans in Madison Square Garden ... NWA RATINGS: 1—Gene Kiniski; 2—Fritz Von Erich; 3—Eddie Graham; 4—The Sheik; 5—Johnny Valentine; 6—John Paul Henning; 7—Ernie Ladd; 8—Bob Ellis; 9—Pat O'Connor; 10—



While the promoters worked behind the scenes to sign a match between WWF champion Bruno Sammartino and NWA champion Gene Kiniski, Bruno made a successful defense against The Sheik.

Bob Geigel. AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Bruiser; 3—Crusher; 4—Harley Race; 5—Blackjack Lanza; 6—Bill Watts; 7—Mighty Igor; 8—Mad Dog Vachon; 9—Reg Parks; 10—Doug Gilbert. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Gorilla Monsoon; 3—Toru Tanaka; 4—George Steele; 5—Ed Carpentier; 6—Spiros Arion; 7—Hans Mortier; 8—Miguel Perez; 9—Victor Rivera; 10—Bull Ramos. TAG TEAMS: 1—Bruiser & Crusher; 2—Pepper Gomez & Pedro Morales; 3—George Becker & Johnny Weaver; 4—Kenji Shibuya & Haru Sasaki; 5—

(Continued on page 62)



Eddie Graham, oblivious to the referee at his feet, pounds away at the Masked Goliath in Tampa, Florida.



# WRESTLER

## OF THE MONTH

DAVID VON ERICH

THE PEOPLE OF Denton, Texas, have not seen much of one of their neighbors lately. David Von Erich has been on the road a lot.

David continues to battle The Freebirds in singles matches and in tag team battles with brothers Kerry and Kevin in Texas. And he is also challenging for the American heavyweight title held by Gorgeous Jim Garvin. That's a lot of activity for a Missouri State champion.

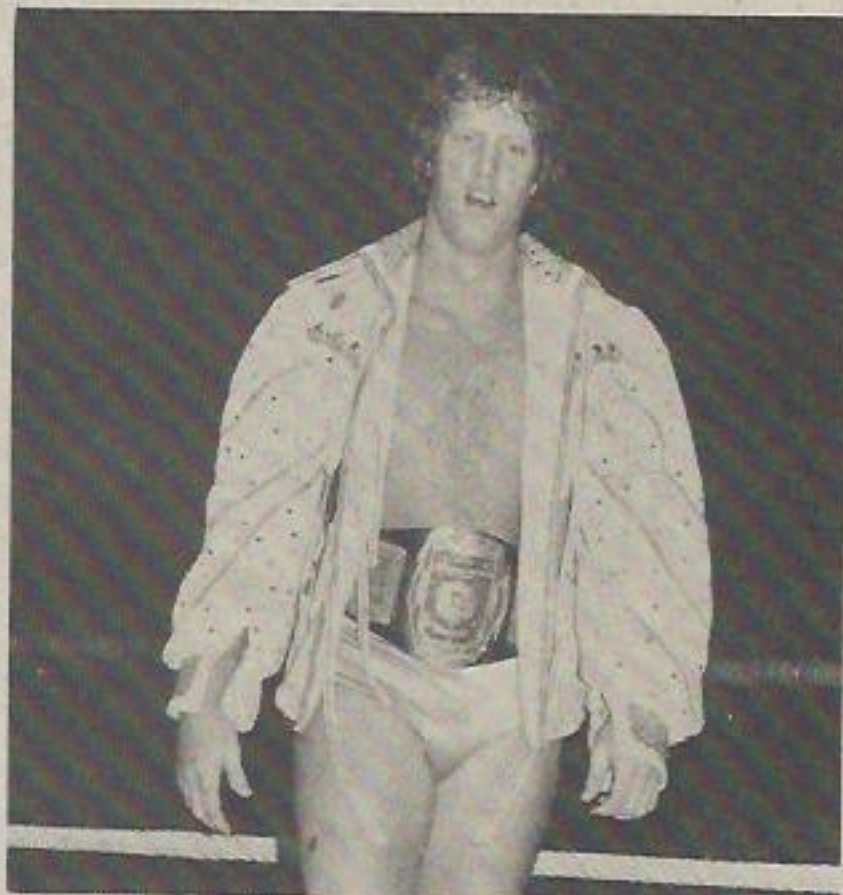
Oh, yes. David Von Erich is also the Missouri State champion. That's why his neighbors know that he's not the person to borrow a cup of sugar from.

The Missouri State title has been called the most prestigious regional championship in the country, as it is considered a steppingstone to the NWA World championship. But it is also one of the most demanding titles as well. As the Missouri champ, Von Erich is required to accept the challenges of the sport's toughest competitors. He has already logged victories over Ric Flair and the Super Destroyer. Defenses against Greg Valentine and former Missouri champ Crusher Blackwell are in the negotiation stages.

In these matches, Von Erich is gathering the experience that shapes a wrestler into a serious contender for a world championship. Based on his performances against Flair and Super D, and his activity in Texas, the editorial staff of *Sports Review Wrestling* has named David Von Erich "Wrestler of the Month."

"I didn't even realize how much I've been doing until you told me," Von Erich told *Sports Review Wrestling*. "Sometimes I get so busy, I don't even realize what I'm doing."

Von Erich admitted that he had doubts about wrestling for the Missouri title while still so involved in feuds in his native Texas, but he viewed it as a vital career move. "It's the most important state title there is," he said. "As far as competition goes, I think it comes very close to either of the world titles. Everyone wants it, because they know that a title shot comes with it."



Von Erich's two brothers, Kevin and Kerry, have both held the Missouri title, but they failed in their attempts to win the NWA World championship. David, however, does not see the same happening to him.

"You know what they say. 'On any given night, anything could happen.' Kevin and Kerry just had their shots on the wrong nights. They didn't have any luck going for them," David said. "Both of them are equally capable of winning the world title. If there was any reason for them not winning it, maybe it was that they rushed into it too fast."

"I'm not demanding a shot at Race right now," Von Erich continued. "If it comes, fine, I'll take it. But I think I'd be better off defending the Missouri belt, getting comfortable with it, and getting some tough competition under my belt. Then I'll take on Race, and I'll try my hardest. I know I can beat him. And besides, I've always been the lucky one in the family."

One might think that the feuds with Garvin and The Freebirds would be detrimental to Von

FEBRUARY 1984



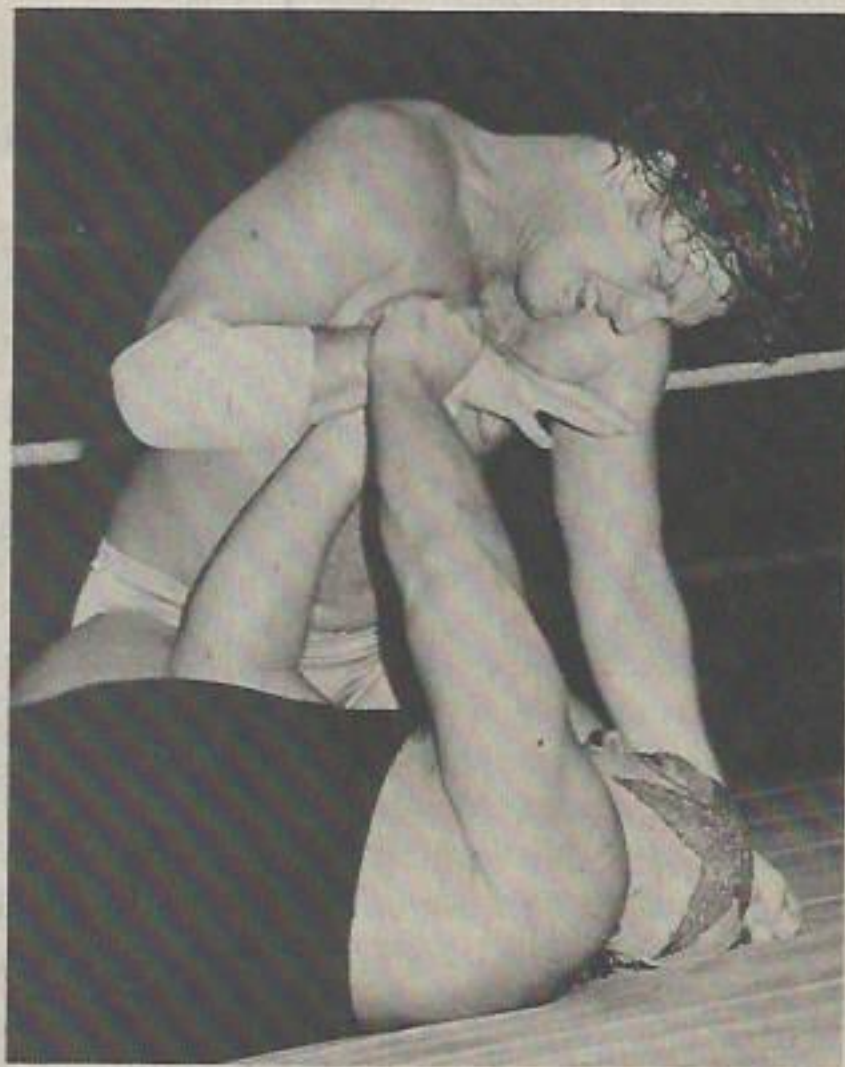


David, loyal to the Von Erich cause, makes regular Texas appearances against Michael Hayes and The Freebirds (above). Von Erich defends his Missouri State title against Super Destroyer (top right).

Erich's success. These wrestlers often seem more concerned with inflicting pain than winning matches.

"I have a responsibility to Kerry and Kevin to help them get rid of those Freebirds," Von Erich said. "I can't just leave them alone to fight the Sissy [Michael Hayes], Baby Huey [Terry Gordy], and the Chicken [Buddy Roberts]. I take my responsibilities seriously. We all do. It's something our father taught us."

Von Erich had decided to stop his pursuit of the American title . . . until the recent flareup between Garvin and Sunshine. Garvin has been



under noticeable stress since the desertion of his valet. "I'm not even going to have to do anything to win the American title," Von Erich said. "Garvin's going to lose it to me all by himself. I was waiting for this situation with Sunshine to explode. Now he's feuding with a little girl. Mistakes come in bunches, and he'll be making a lot of them, soon."

Surprisingly, Von Erich said he is feeling no particular physical strain from his hectic wrestling and travel schedules. "I've always had a talent for being able to sleep on airplanes," he said laughing. "Seriously, though, I just decide I'm gonna do it, and I do it. I have a goal, and that goal is to win the NWA World title. I've planned everything that I'm doing very carefully. This is what I feel I *have* to do to win the title."

"I don't look at the day-to-day events of my life. I look at my ultimate goal. It's close enough to see now. And it looks great. In fact, it looks better every time I look at it. It's a great view, and the view from the top will be even greater." □



## SPORTS REVIEW

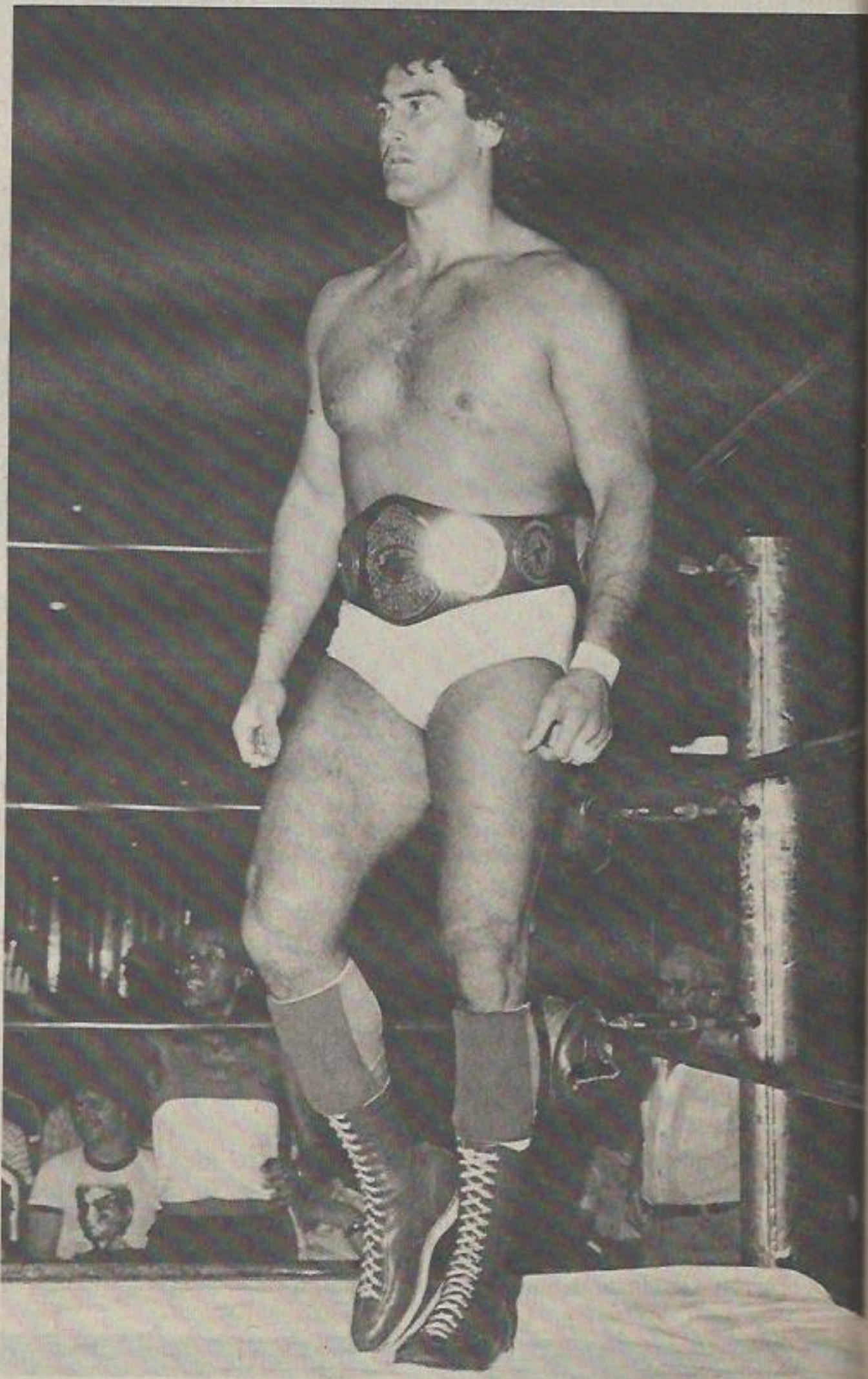
# INTERVIEW

### MIKE ROTONDO

*When he was in the Mid-Atlantic area, Mike Rotondo appeared to be in a holding pattern. Always appearing to be on the brink of stardom, he never seemed able to push himself far enough to become a champion. Then he disappeared for a few weeks, later revealing he went to a special training camp near his home in Syracuse, New York. He quickly became the greatest argument for education in wrestling history.*

*After traveling to Florida, he defeated the terrifying Purple Haze in record time, although the match was shrouded in controversy. No one, however, doubts the legitimacy of his conquest over Ron Bass, taking Bass's Southern championship belt in the process. He also started teaming with Florida State champion Barry Windham. Suddenly, everything is coming up victories for Rotondo.*

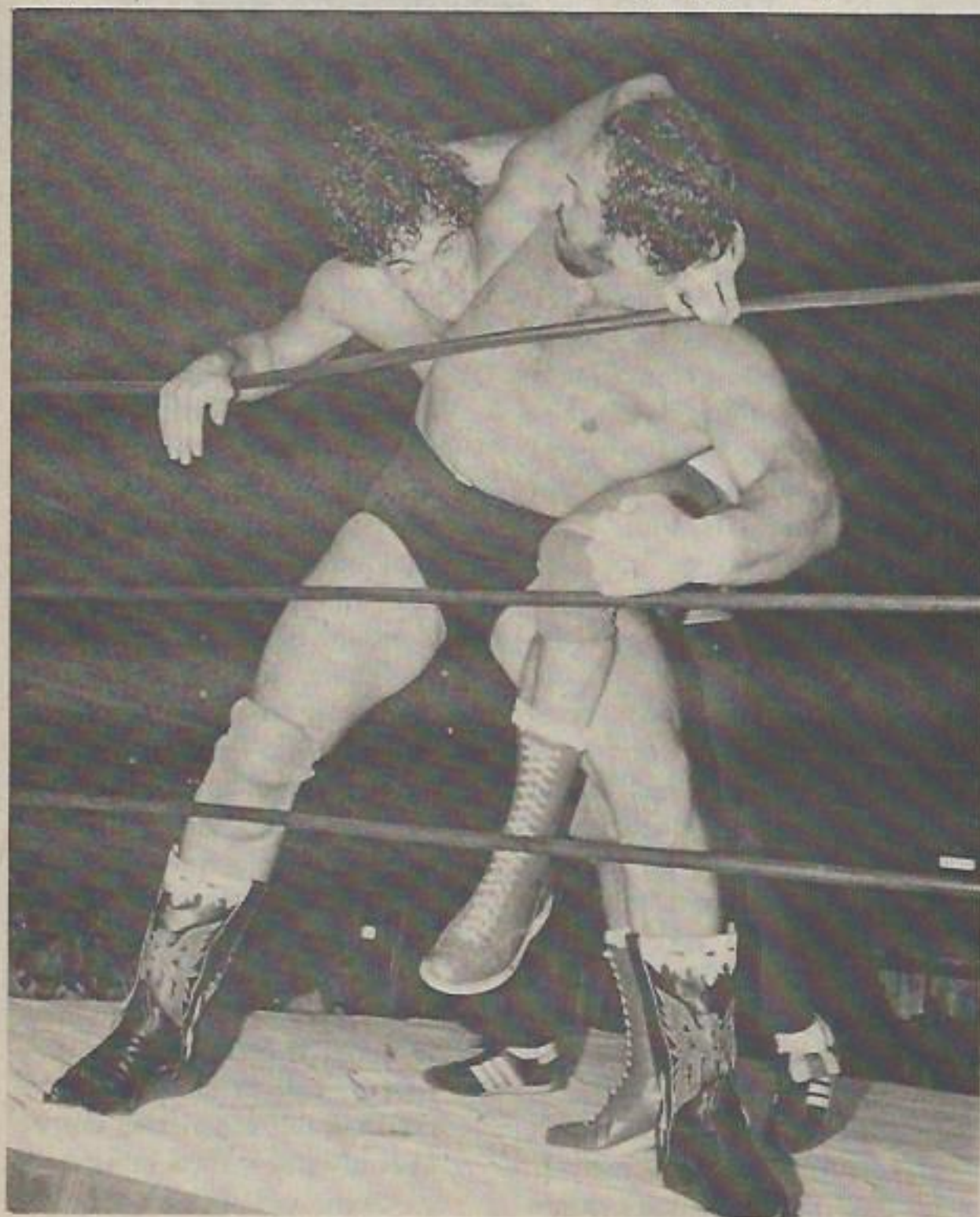
*Sports Review Wrestling's Liz Hunter recently interviewed this budding superstar. "I figured a good place to start would be to ask him about this incredible turnaround," Hunter said. "I was surprised at how unaffected he was by his sudden success. Some people fear that having won the Southern championship at such a young age, Mike's going to be tempted to relax. After talking to him, I can guarantee that that just won't happen."*







Applying a hammerlock on Ron Bass, Rotondo does his best to keep his opponent away from the ropes (above). Mike's abdominal stretch is also a bit too close to the edge of the ring (below). The Southern champion studies his challenger (opposite left).



**Q:** To what do you attribute your new success?

**A:** I've had at least a hundred people ask me about the place where I trained. I hate to break it to the world, but there is no magic formula for success. I wanted to succeed. I worked very hard at that camp. I had fallen into some bad habits and they pointed them out. Still, I'm the one who made the thing work. I'm not bragging. But I don't want people to think there's some easy way to succeed. There isn't. I think I just got to the point in my life where I had to get serious or get out.

**Q:** What led you to that decision?

**A:** I've had it easy all my life when it came to athletics. I think most professional athletes can understand that. When I came to the pro ranks, suddenly I was with guys just as good or better than me. It came as a shock. I really didn't know how to cope with it. I needed some time away to think and really work. I took the time. When I came to Florida I was ready to win. I was hungry, really hungry for the first time

*(Continued on page 24)*



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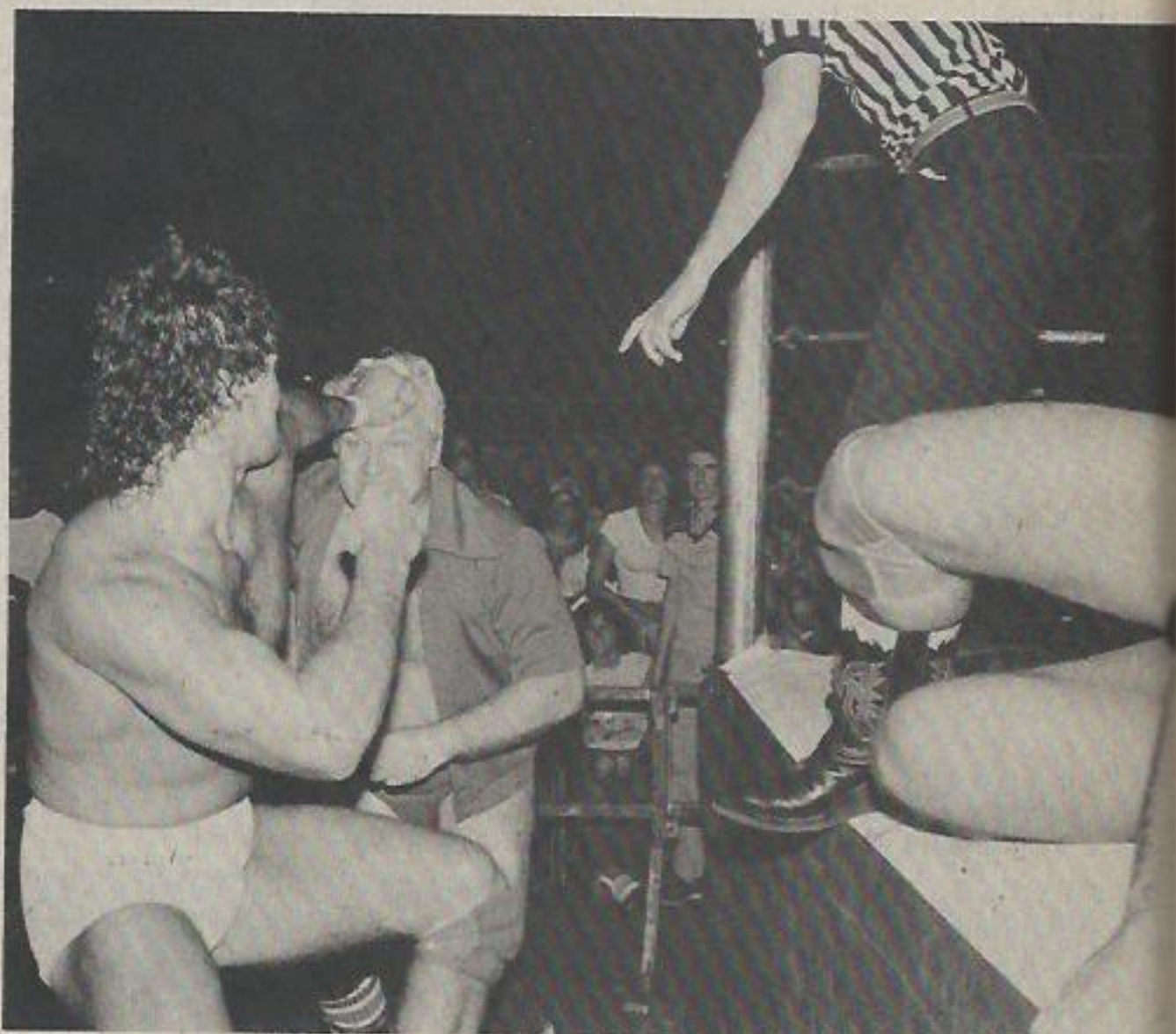
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## SPORTS REVIEW INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 23)



Rotondo is under the impression that James J. Dillon takes him lightly. With Bass down on the ring apron, Mike defends himself against the charging manager. Dillon probably respects Rotondo's abilities more than Mike realizes.

in my life. When I faced The Purple Haze, I was so anxious that I exploded at him. I know some people think I got him before the bell, but I'm sure I didn't. It shows, though, how much I wanted to win.

**Q:** In your next match, you beat Ron Bass for the Southern championship. You also incurred the wrath of his manager, J.J. Dillon. Does being on Dillon's hit list worry you?

**A:** Actually, I'm flattered. I was never important enough before to be on anyone's hit list. As for Dillon, I'm not too worried. He doesn't take me seriously yet. He said I was just a punk who got lucky. By the time he accepts the truth, he'll be ready to leave Florida. It feels strange to be in the middle of a feud. I still find it exciting. In five years, I don't know

how I'll feel about them. Right now, I'm enjoying myself.

**Q:** You've also started to team with Barry Windham. You've enjoyed remarkable success against top competition. How did that team come about?

**A:** That was a strange one. I had just won the Southern championship. Barry holds the Florida State title. A promoter thought it would be exciting if we teamed. Promoters make these suggestions all the time and most of them are ridiculous. Truthfully, neither Barry nor I had much hope at the first meeting. It seemed so contrived, and again the promoters' track records are abysmal. In about five minutes, we were friends. I don't know if you've ever had this experience, but we instantly knew each other as if we were old friends. By the



time we got to the gym, we knew it was going to work. There was never any question that we'd be good tag team partners. We both knew it instantly.

Q: What is there about you two that makes a good tag team?

A: First, we understand each other. I can't stress enough how important that is for a team. He knows instinctively when I'm in trouble and I know when he needs help. A lot of teams don't understand that, until the guy is in real trouble. Neither of us ever gets caught, because the other knows instantly what to do. This gives the guy wrestling a lot of confidence. I'm much more reckless in my tag team matches with Barry than I am when I'm wrestling alone. I have every faith that Barry will save my butt if I get into trouble. He's the same way. Barry threatens to call our team "The Wildmen." I'm not ready to go that far.

Q: Where does Mike Rotondo go from here?

A: Good question. I realize I'm best when I'm ambitious. Now that I'm suddenly hot, there's a tendency to protect what I've got. That's how I got into trouble before. I've got to keep going for new conquests. It's not hard to figure out the next step. I'm after Harley Race. I'm trying to become the new NWA World champion.

Q: And what happens if you win the title? How can you keep ambitious?

A: The NWA has a rich history. It won't be easy trying to be the best champion ever. That'll take a lifetime of struggle. I'm ready to devote that lifetime. There's always something new to attain. I don't expect to be the first person in history to be perfect. But I know I'll always have something to strive for. ☐

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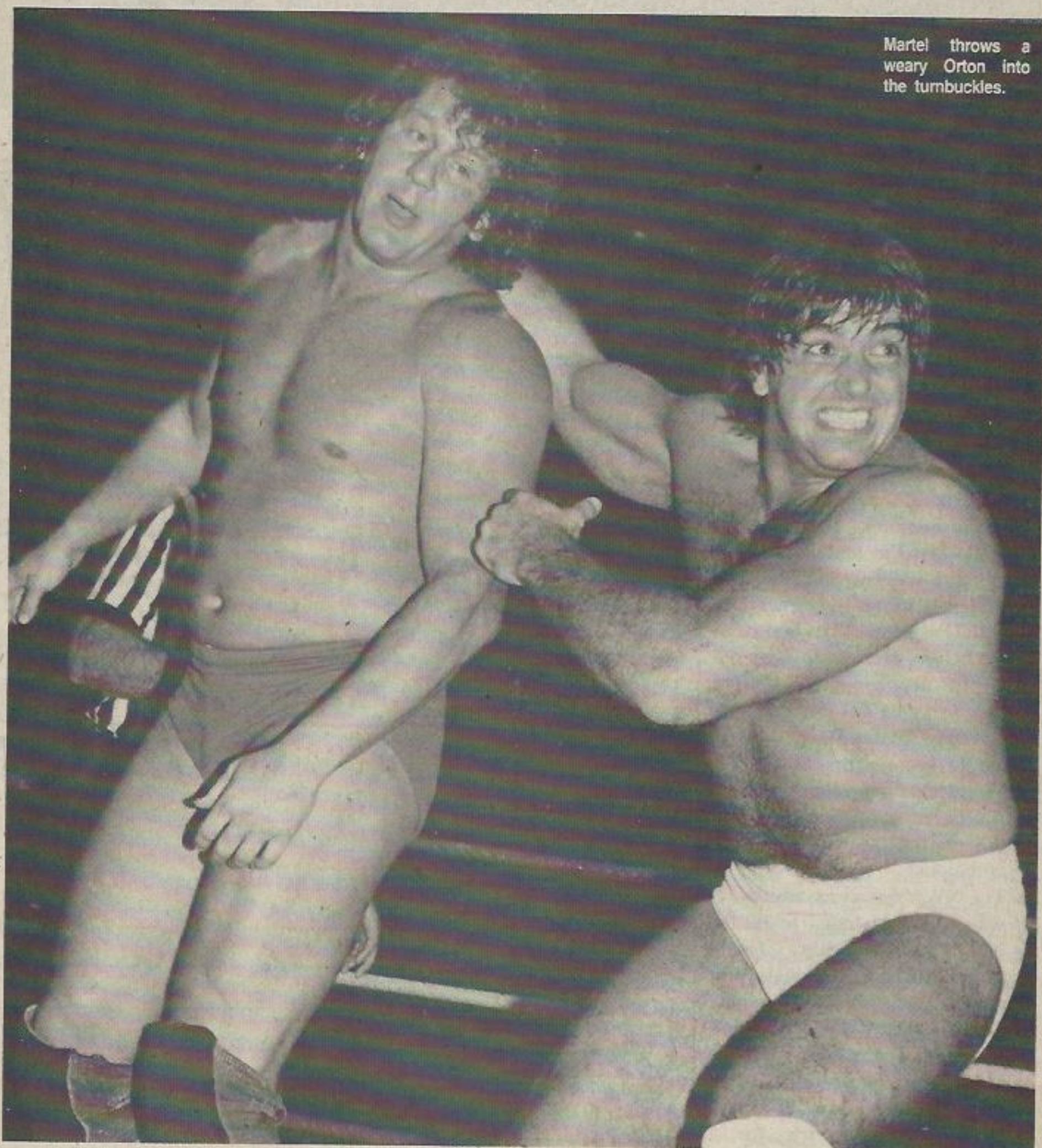
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**Rick Martel vs. Cowboy Bob Orton**

# **AT STAKE: TWO TITLE SHOTS**

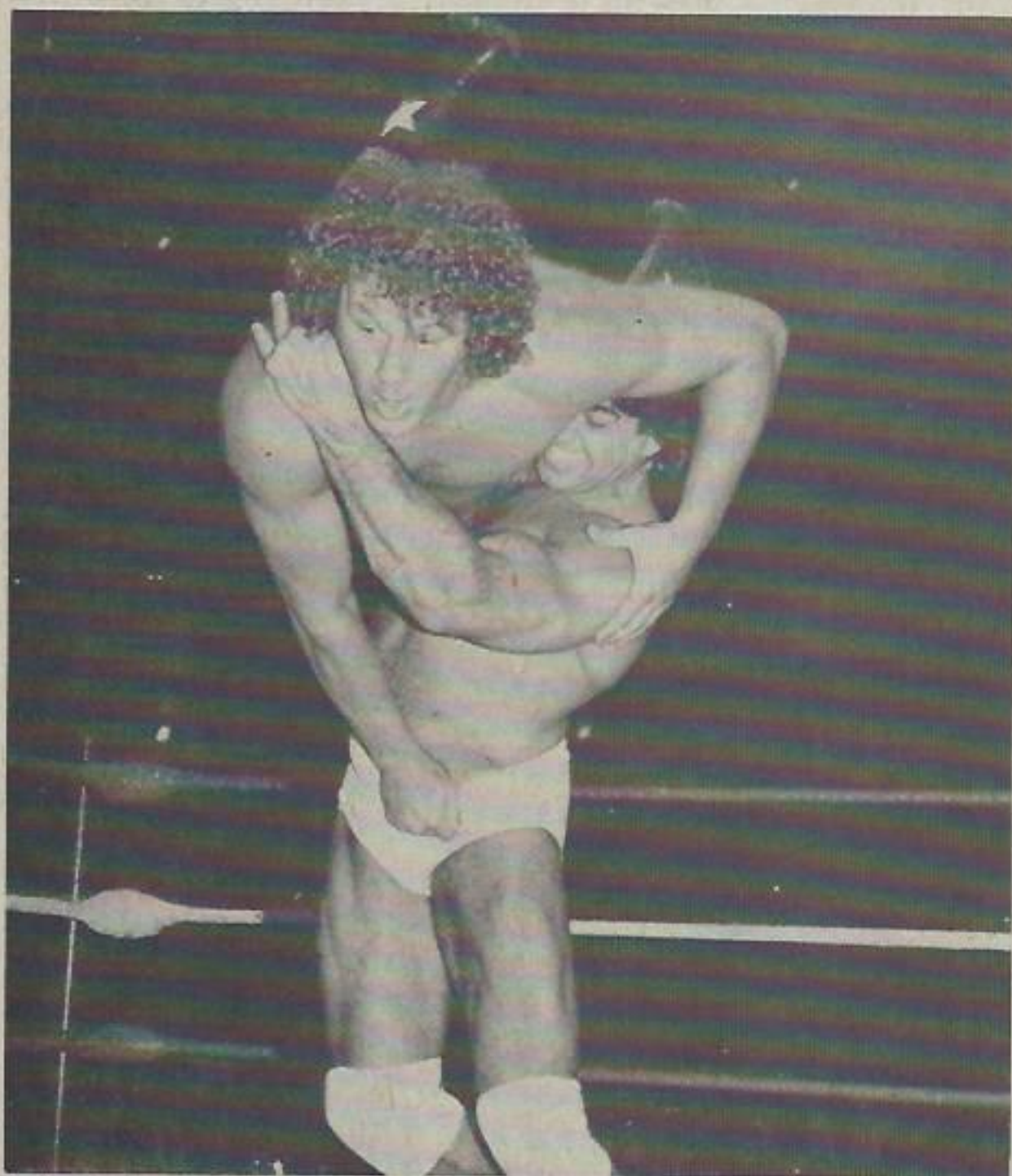
*Photos by  
Scott Romer*



Martel throws a  
weary Orton into  
the tumbuckles.



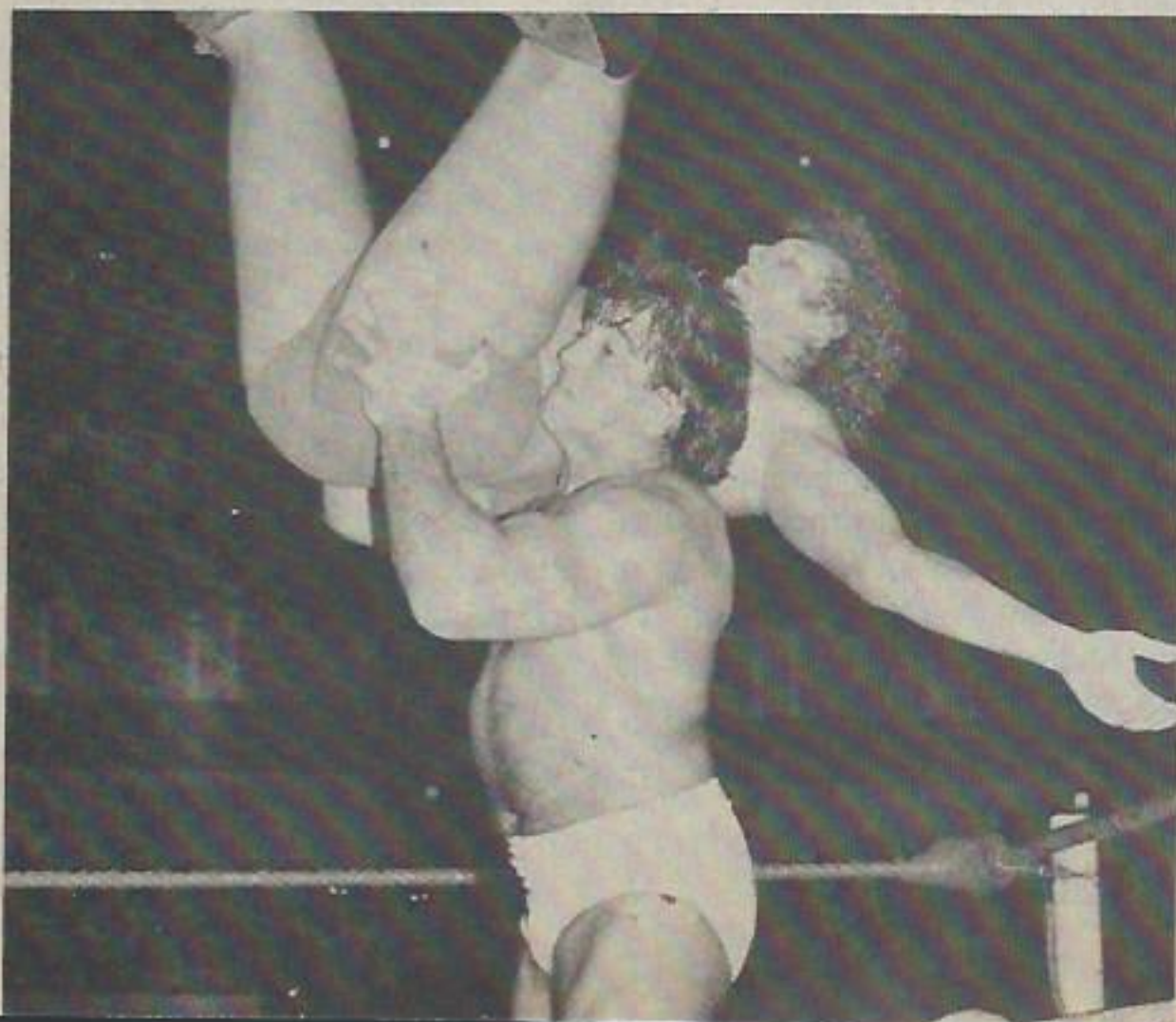
Two young superstars, Rick Martel and Cowboy Bob Orton, were battling for more than victory that night in St. Louis. At stake was the chance for their dreams to come true. The only thing stopping them was the opponent standing across the ring



From the opening bell, the wrestlers' intensity level was tremendous. Martel's muscles tense as he prepares to bodyslam Orton (left). Seeing little chance of Martel allowing him free reentry to the ring, Orton pulls Rick's foot out from under him (above). Orton proves his extremely high threshold for pain as he absorbs Martel's spine-crusher and still continues to wrestle (bottom left).

**F**OR MOST OF those in St. Louis' Kiel Auditorium, the important people were in the ring. For the wrestlers, the two most important people were sitting ring-side. Each held the future of a wrestler in his hands.

The wrestlers were Rick Martel and Cowboy Bob Orton. The men at ringside were AWA President Stanley Blackburn and NWA President Bob Geigel. Martel needed to show Blackburn he was ready for another title shot against AWA champ Nick Bockwinkel. Orton longed for a title shot against NWA king Harley Race. If either wrestler won this match convincingly, he was assured a title shot in the near fu-





ture. The loser, of course, would be condemned to working his way back to the top.

So Martel and Orton stared at the man across the ring. He was more than an opponent. He was the person able to ruin a career for months, if not forever. Each man knew what the other was thinking. The stakes couldn't be higher: Neither man expected mercy. Orton knew to expect Martel's best. Martel knew to expect the notorious Orton's worst.

In other circumstances, this match would have been seen as a conflict between two schools of wrestling. Martel is a strictly scientific grappler, as man dedicated to sportsmanship as well as victory. For Orton, there is no other consideration than victory. Like a street punk expecting nothing he doesn't take for himself, Orton ruthlessly wages war against his opponent. In war, it's survival of the fittest.

Nothing about this match had been left to chance. Even the site had been selected only after long consideration. Both men needed a special match to prove they were worthy of title shots. In both the AWA and NWA, the title picture is cluttered with various challengers, each with a legitimate claim to an early title shot. Both Martel and Orton, already having had title shots, found themselves fairly far down the list. Both felt they needed a spectacular victory to insure their right for the big match. They went to their respective federation presidents to find out who qualified as a top opponent.

Coincidentally, both men made their requests at approximately the same time. It was Geigel's idea that Orton wrestle somebody from the AWA to prove himself. When he contacted Blackburn, Martel's name was immediately suggested. Both officials agreed that even without title shots on the line, this would be a great

As the battle strays from the ring, Martel executes a piledriver against Orton in the padded area surrounding the ring apron.

matchup.

Then came the question of where the bout should be held. A neutral site had to be selected. Orton was wrestling mostly in the Mid-Atlantic area. Martel was a hero in the AWA. Somewhere in the Midwest seemed to be ideal. Geigel suggested St. Louis, fitting, as it is this country's meeting place between east and west. Blackman happily agreed and the match was set.

Martel and Orton were also eager. They had wrestled earlier in their careers, neither man winning a conclusive victory. More important, they had brought out the best in each other. Two superb young athletes with conflicting styles, Martel and Orton knew the other could provide what he needed to shine. The contracts were negotiated in record time. The match was set.

(Continued on page 48)







**Iceman**

**King Parsons:**

## **HE LEAVES HIS OPPONENTS COLD**

*He used to consider himself an ordinary wrestler, but "Iceman"*

*King Parsons is far from ordinary today. His looks and his talents are unlike that of any other wrestler. He might be called the Iceman, but he's heating up wrestling crowds in Texas and St. Louis while earning the respect of fans and opponents alike*



"I WAS NOTHIN' special," the wrestler said, showing no indication of being embarrassed by his admission.

What "Iceman" King Parsons was saying wasn't far from the truth. Three years ago, Parsons *wasn't* anything special. By the time Mid-Atlantic wrestling fans watched an exciting main event, they had forgotten the preliminary wrestler they saw in the first or second match. King Parsons was ... forgettable.

"I was just ordinary," he said. "I looked ordinary. I wrestled ordinary. I was bland, like boiled chicken. Let's put it this way, I was getting out of the arenas with not too much of a struggle. Once, I wanted to go back into the arena and watch the main event, and a security guard stopped me and asked for my ticket stub. He didn't even recognize me. Like I said, I was nothin' special. In fact, I was nothin'—period."

That has all changed.

If you are one of the hundreds of people who wait for Parsons after the matches outside the Kiel Auditorium in his home town of St. Louis, if you are one of the thousands of Texas fans who cheer Parsons as he battles The Freebirds or Jim Garvin, or if you've seen Parsons recently, even in photos, you know that he isn't ordinary anymore.

The current incarnation of King Parsons is subtitled the "Ice Age" by the wrestler himself. "I'm the Iceman," he said. "I'm chilling out my opponents. It also means that I'm cool, like ice. It's all part of my new image."

Parsons' look is as much a part of his new image as his ring style. Six braids hanging from an otherwise bald head gives him a look shared by no other wrestler. "I wanted to do something different, and someone beat me to the Mohawk haircut, if you know what I mean."

In St. Louis, however, the Mo-



Parsons, who feels as confident in the ring as he looks, backdrops Doug Sommers to the mat. Parsons has improved markedly over the past three years.

hawk-topped Mr. T. has nothing over Parsons. His legion of fans in that city includes former neighbors and old friends. "I lived in the projects, and when you live in

the projects, you have a lot of neighbors. I went to the same school that Leon and Michael Spinks went to. We've had two world champions in boxing, so I guess it's up to me to win a world title in wrestling."

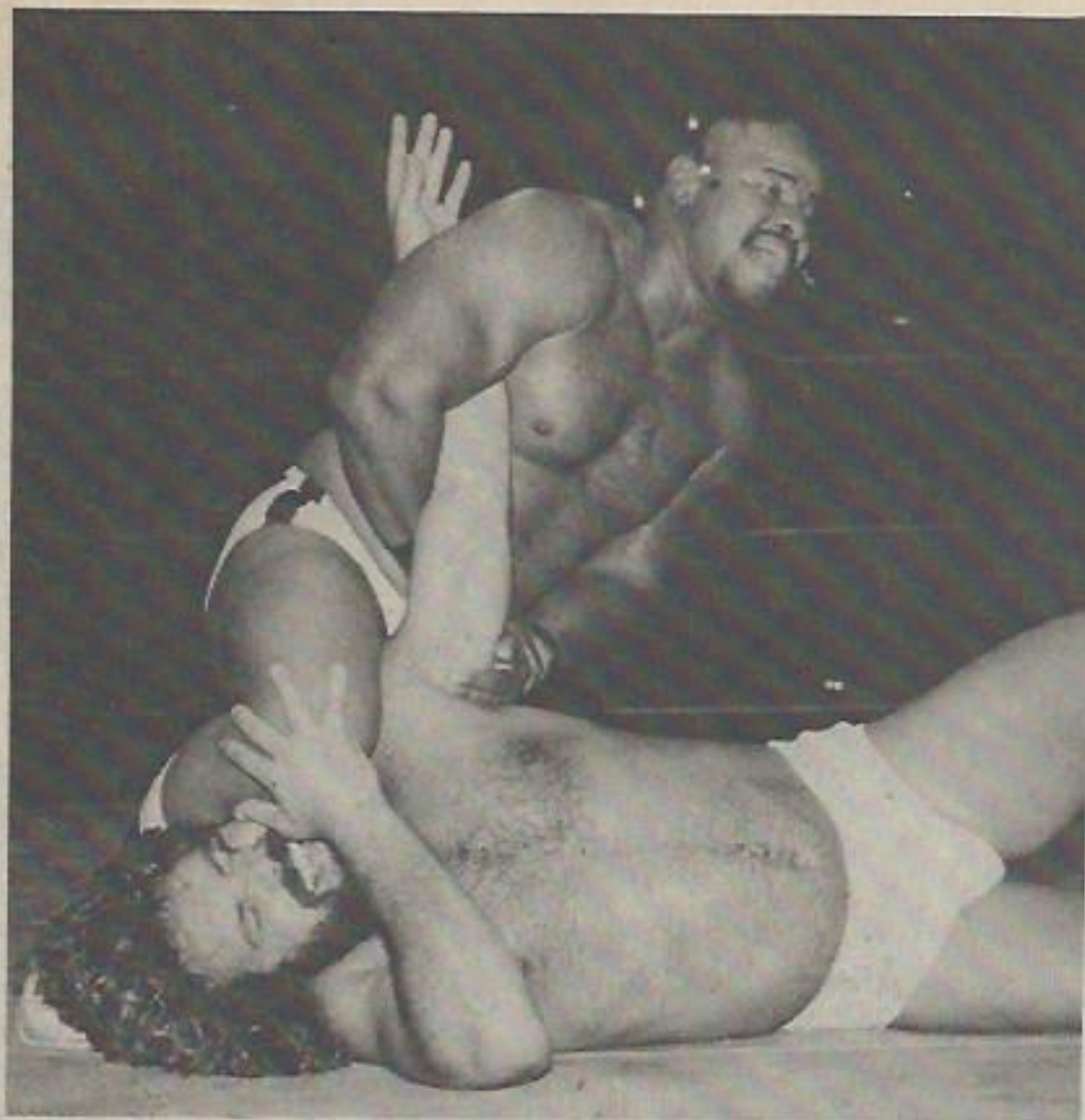
Before he attained his current success, Parsons refused to wrestle in his home town. "No one wants to fail in front of people they know," he said. "It was easier out of town. I didn't know them. If they booed, I didn't care. That's why I started in the Mid-Atlantic, and I'm glad I did, because I really would have embarrassed myself."

After taking an objective look at his career, Parsons decided that he was, as he said, "in a stalled car on a dead end street." He dropped out of the Mid-Atlantic and completely out of sight. He resurfaced in Texas early last year, but the time he spent out of wrestling was ironically the most important of Parsons' wrestling career. He is very secretive about



Parsons' dropkick against Michael Hayes is slightly off the mark. Three years ago, a botched maneuver would affect Parsons for the remainder of the match. Not anymore.





The Iceman shows perfect form as he plants his right knee in Jim Garvin's shoulder while applying an armbar (above left). Buddy Roberts, clearly Parsons' most hated rival, cries out from the pain of the abdominal stretch (above right). Parsons, flashing his customary smile, headlocks Boris Zurekhov (below).

his sabbatical, speaking only in vague terms about his year off.

"I learned a lot about myself in that year," he said, "a lot about my body and my mind, and what they could do together. I spent a lot of time training. I had to get my body in perfect shape. As I came closer and closer to my physical peak, my confidence grew more and more."

Parsons' newly found confidence is evident in his ring performance. Spectators can often see him smiling as he successfully executes a maneuver. "Usually, I'm having a good time out there," he said. "If you don't see me smiling, my opponent better watch out, 'cause it means there's something going on in that ring that I don't like."

Freebird Buddy Roberts is one man who regularly turns the Iceman's warm smile to a cold frown. Roberts grabbed a handful of Parsons' trunks to win a hair vs. hair bout in August. Parsons



wasn't about to lose what hair he had because of Roberts' illegal tactics, however. "I spread that hair cream all over his head,"

Parsons said. "He might have been a Freebird, but after that, he was a bald eagle."

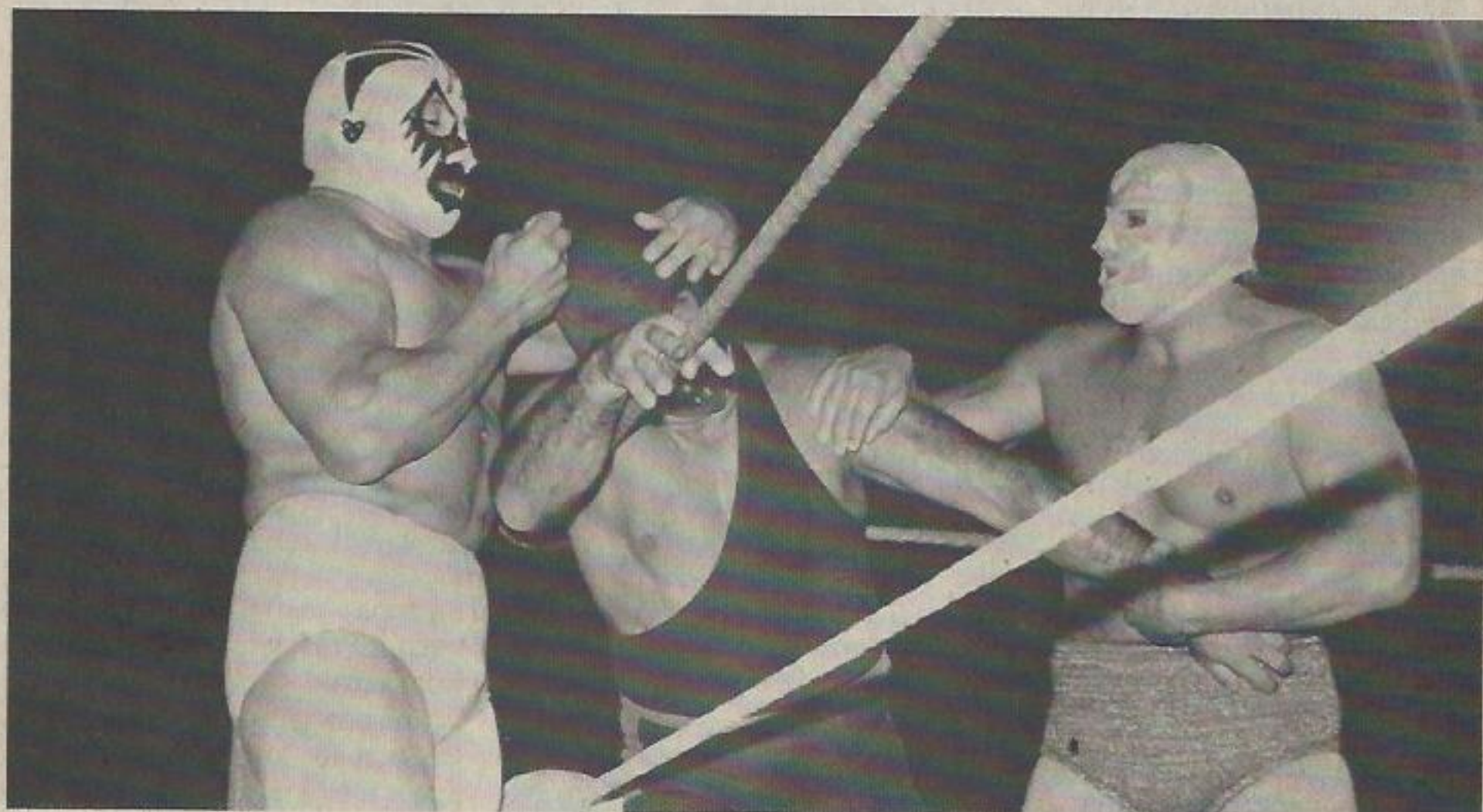
Parsons smiled at the memory. He is a fun-loving man who can make a stranger feel at ease without even trying. "Most of the time I'm having fun," he said. "How many people are there who can honestly say they enjoy their jobs? I can. For a kid from the projects, I have a pretty exciting career. I travel, I meet a lot of great people, and I get paid for it. I really enjoy testing myself to see much I can do. I push myself to the limit in every match. It's not just a physical thing. It's physical and mental. For me, there is no separating the two. They work together—or they don't work."

"My body can now perform any command that my mind asks it to perform. It's a great feeling. Do you know what a feeling it is to be able to do everything you want to do? I now have confidence in everything I do, not just in wrestling, but in all facets of my life. It's different from anything I have ever felt before. It's almost spiritual."

And hardly ordinary. □



# Mil Mascaras & Dos Caras' THE BROTHER TAG TEAM



Photos by Bill Apter

**A**S THEY TRUDGED back into the dressing room, Mil Mascaras avoided the gaze of his brother, Dos Caras. Once again, they failed to be a great tag team. Both knew why they failed. It wasn't the first time. Though they sensed they would someday try again, both realized nothing would change.

They were silent for several minutes. Reporters being around didn't help much, but one got the sense there wouldn't be anything to say even if the two wrestlers were alone. They showered and dressed without saying a word. The reporters, who usually take this time to

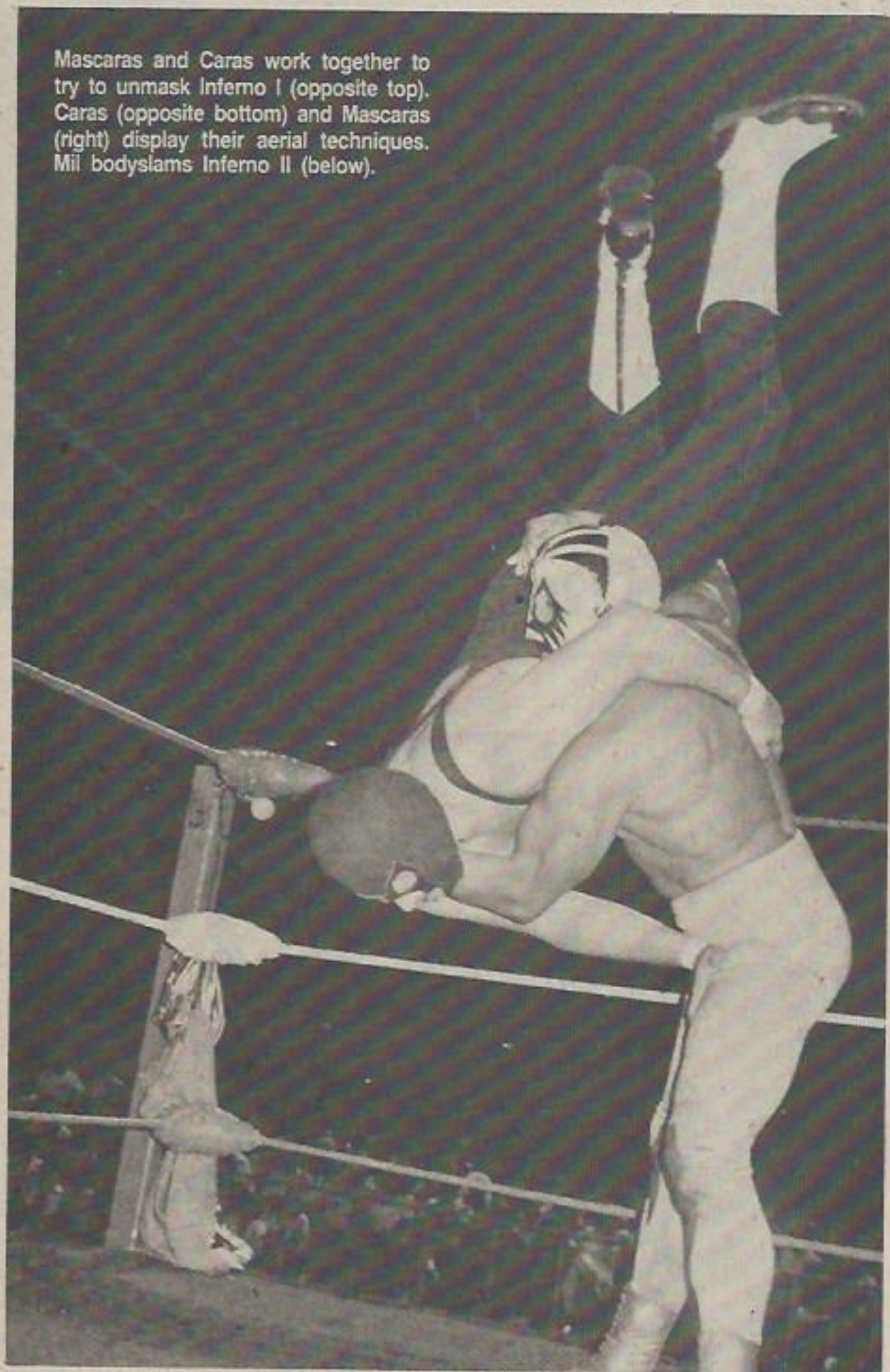


***It seems perfect, a tag team comprised of brothers Mil Mascaras and Dos Caras. Instead of perfection, the tag team is doomed to failure. The shocking reason for this is at once heartbreaking and heartwarming. To understand this strange contradiction, you have to know the brothers***



# One-Night Reunion: THAT CANNOT SURVIVE

Mascaras and Caras work together to try to unmask Inferno I (opposite top). Caras (opposite bottom) and Mascaras (right) display their aerial techniques. Mil bodyslams Inferno II (below).



pepper wrestlers with questions, respected the quiet. They seemed to realize there was nothing to say that the brothers hadn't said before. What had happened in the ring told the entire story.

Mascaras and Caras battled as a

tag team in Puerto Rico against the always dangerous Infernos. The brothers were tentative, at other times reckless. They rarely meshed as a team. Yet, at those few random moments when they worked together, they were splendid. You



could understand why they'd keep trying to make themselves into a tag team. It was most of the match, though, that showed why they never had a prayer.

"It's my fault," Mascaras contended the next day. "I keep thinking of Dos as my younger brother, someone who has to be protected. When I think of what it means to be family, I think of myself protecting him from bullies when he was little. It means a lot to me to still in some ways be his protector. When he came into wrestling, I almost wrecked his career trying to protect him. That's why he changed his name. He felt the need to have a separate identity."

"I wish I could see him as the accomplished wrestler he is. In-

*(Continued on page 56)*



**T**HE ARENA KNOWN as The Omni was completely dark. An electric feeling permeated the crowd as their collective anticipation built to a fever pitch. The hour of reckoning was only seconds away.

It had taken almost 40 minutes to construct the steel cage that would contain the fury of two men who had battled for nearly a year and a half. Their matches had been horribly bloody confrontations, each man using every fibre of his being to mutilate the other and permanently eliminate him from wrestling.

It had all come down to one match. All the hatred, all the blood, all the sweat, all the fury had been channeled into one final meeting. It was in the contract: After this match, there would never be another Tommy Rich-Buzz Sawyer confrontation.

Never.

The steel cage was to be their final battleground. Four steel mesh walls, a steel mesh roof, and a second cage suspended above the first. That cage would contain Precious Paul Ellering, assuring that there would be no interference by the manager on behalf of Sawyer.

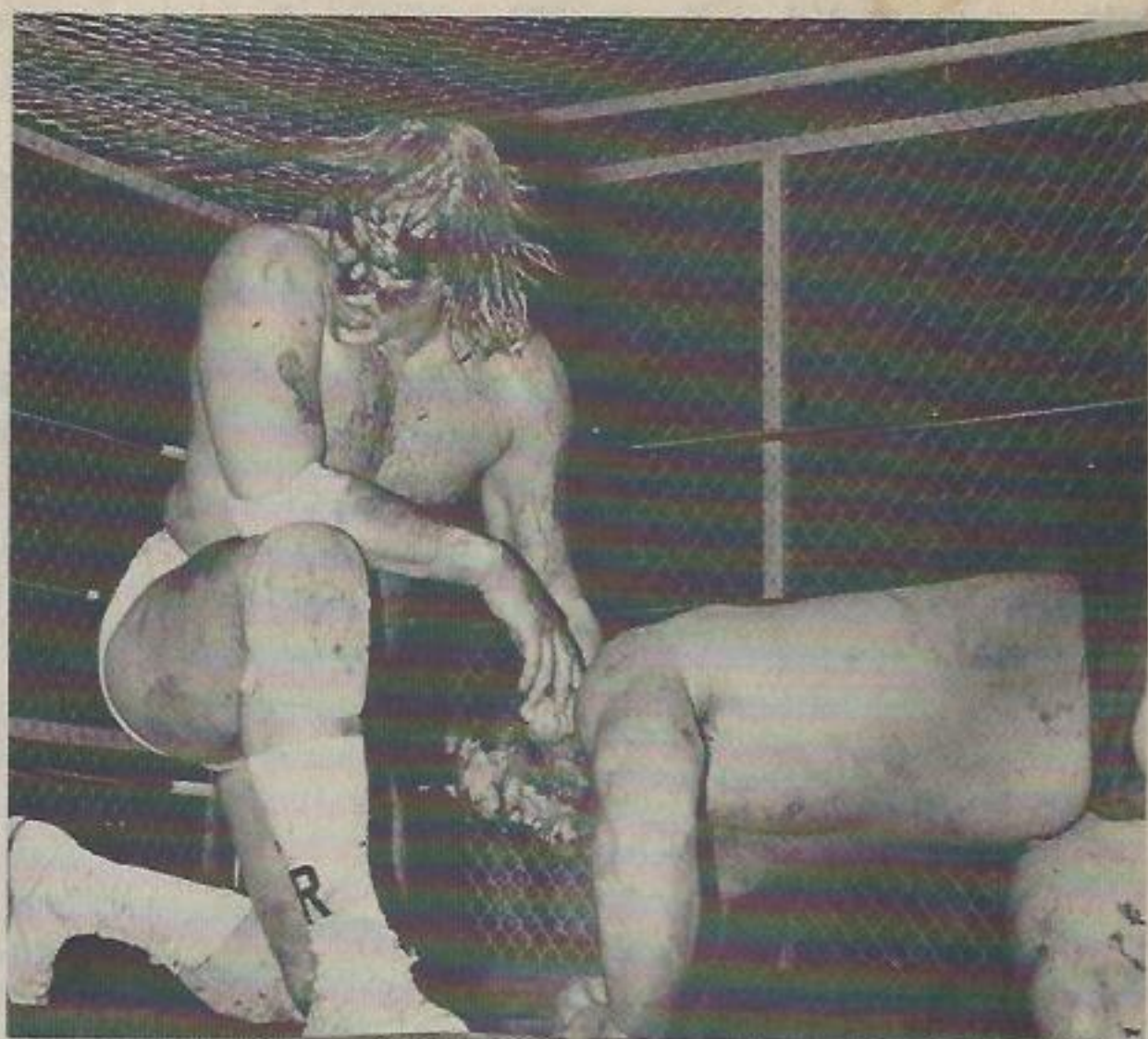
And the anticipation of the crowd grew stronger.

Then the mighty sound system of The Omni blasted forth a song: Elvis Presley's version of "My Way." Billows of smoke punctuated by six red spotlights highlighted the dressing room area. Tommy "Wild-fire" Rich was slowly making his way toward the ring.

Tears were seen to flow from the eyes of ringside fans as the first words of the song sent chills down their spines: "And now the end is near, and so I face the final curtain."

Fans cheered wildly as Tommy slowly entered the cage, knelt in his corner, and somberly prepared himself for the battle soon to follow.

No song accompanied Buzz Saw-

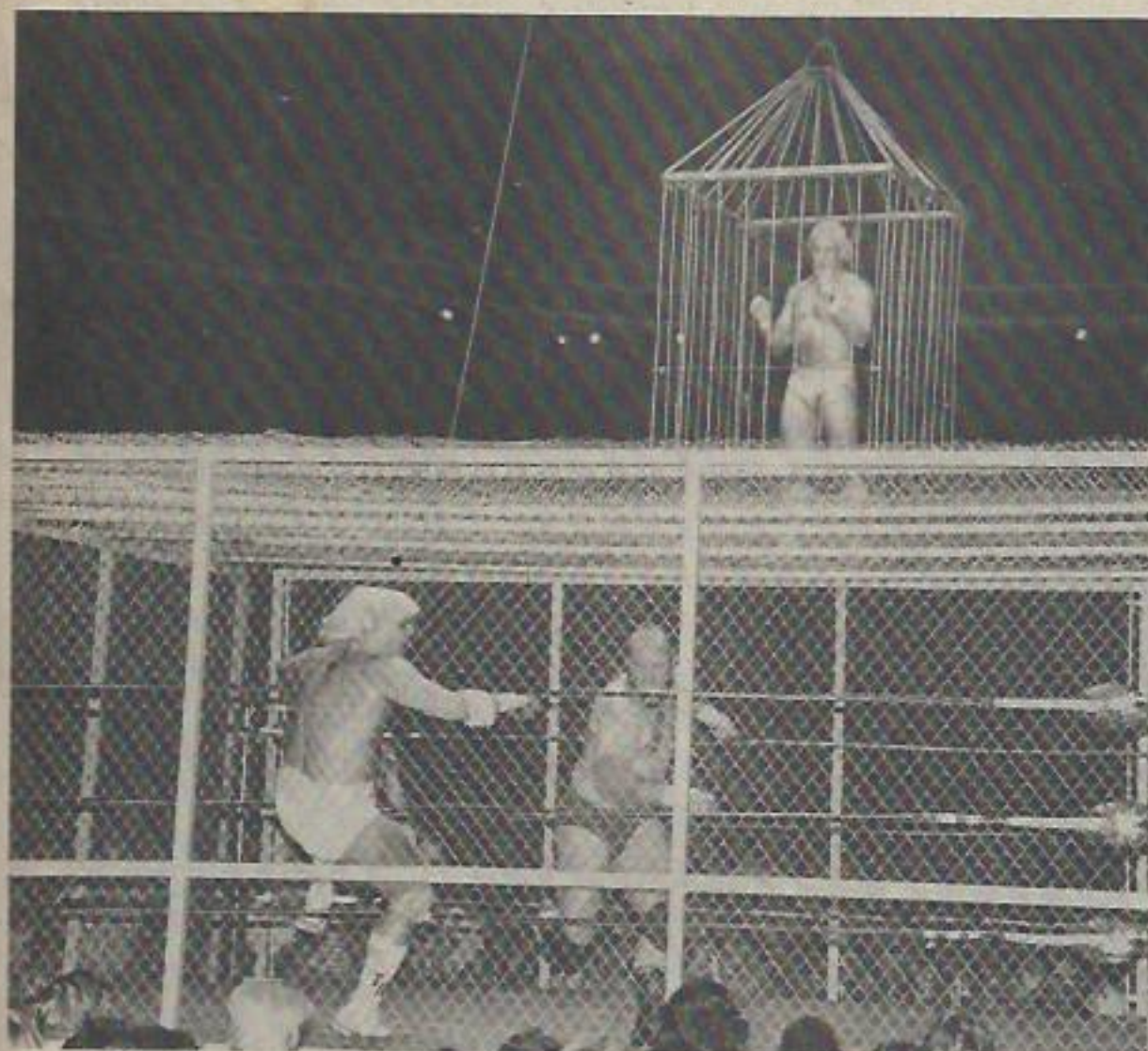


*The Tommy Rich-Buzz Sawyer*

# THE LAST BATTLE OF ATLANTA

*Photos by Craig Peters and Emmy Yates*





When an explosion of hatred takes place in a confined area, something has to give (opposite page left and above). Manager Paul Ellering provides encouragement for his wrestler, but, suspended above the ring, he is unable to influence the match's outcome.

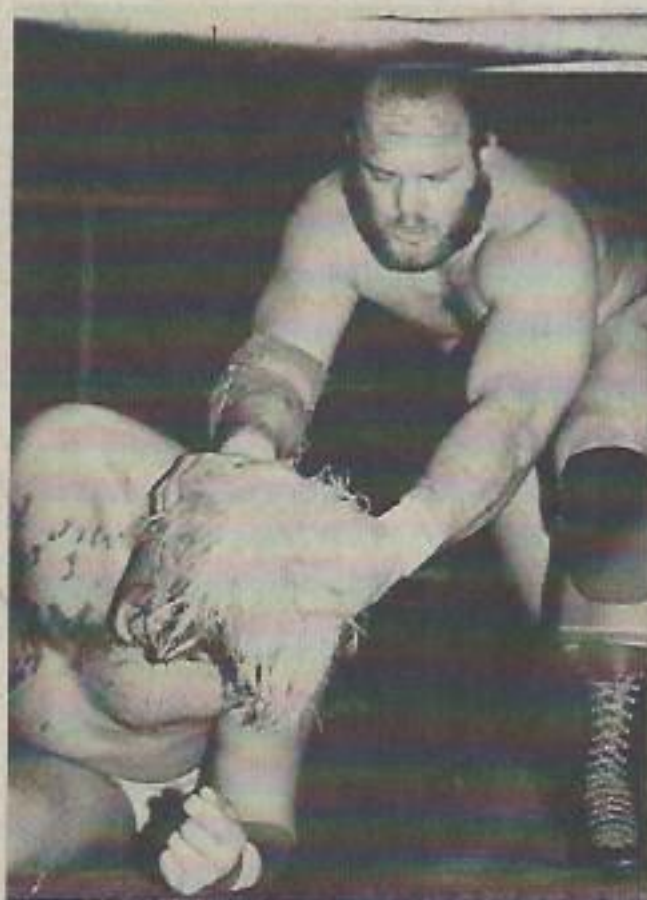
## Sawyer Feud Reaches A Bloody End:

***No one can measure the pain suffered, the blood spilled, or the horror experienced over the course of the Tommy Rich-Buzz Sawyer feud. After a seemingly endless series of ghastly matches, the Rich-Sawyer feud came to a grisly end in what was to enter wrestling history as The Last Battle of Atlanta***

yer and Precious Paul Ellering to the ring. Buzz appeared to be all business as he walked toward the cage, though he did pause in reverence to survey the scene. He walked slowly around the entire perimeter of the cage, testing the strength of the wall and certainly anticipating the feeling of being thrown into that wall full force.

Ellering was placed into the second cage, which was then raised in the air above the first. Buzz entered the main cage. A year and a half of simmering hatred was about to explode.

And explode it did, as Sawyer took the immediate offensive in the match. Grabbing Rich by the hair, he pummelled "Wildfire's" head with a closed fist.



Blood drips from Rich's face as Sawyer relentlessly slams his face against the mat.

There was no referee inside the cage to tell Sawyer that the rules allowed the use of an open palm only. No official anywhere in the world could hope to control the savagery of these two men as they locked together in mortal combat.

Sawyer followed his attack by taking Tommy's head and smashing it against the wall of the cage. A wide gash opened on Wildfire's forehead, and within seconds his silky blond hair was matted against his head with blood.

From his second cage high in the air, Ellering screamed his approval.

Rich soon retaliated. He used his own closed fists to open a wound on Sawyer's head. He threw Sawyer into the cage. Blood poured down



"Mad Dog's" face.

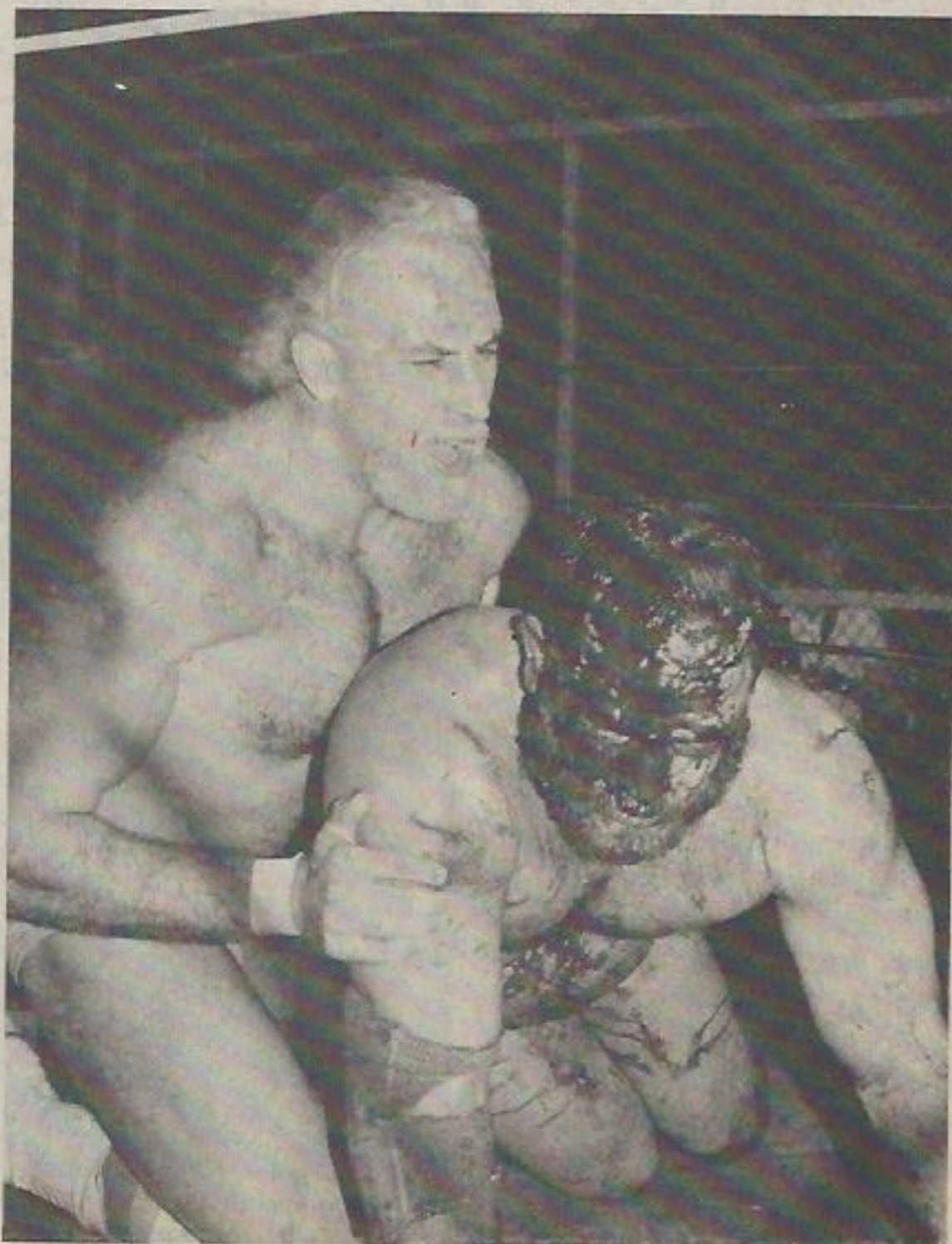
What followed was almost too horrible to describe. Each time one man threw the other into the cage, ringside fans recoiled in horror as blood spattered through the cage and covered them with crimson spots.

Sawyer piledrived Rich with furious intensity. Rich, stunned, summoned enough energy to grab Sawyer and rake his head across the cage itself. Sawyer came back with a bodyslam, and Wildfire drove his head into Sawyer's midsection.

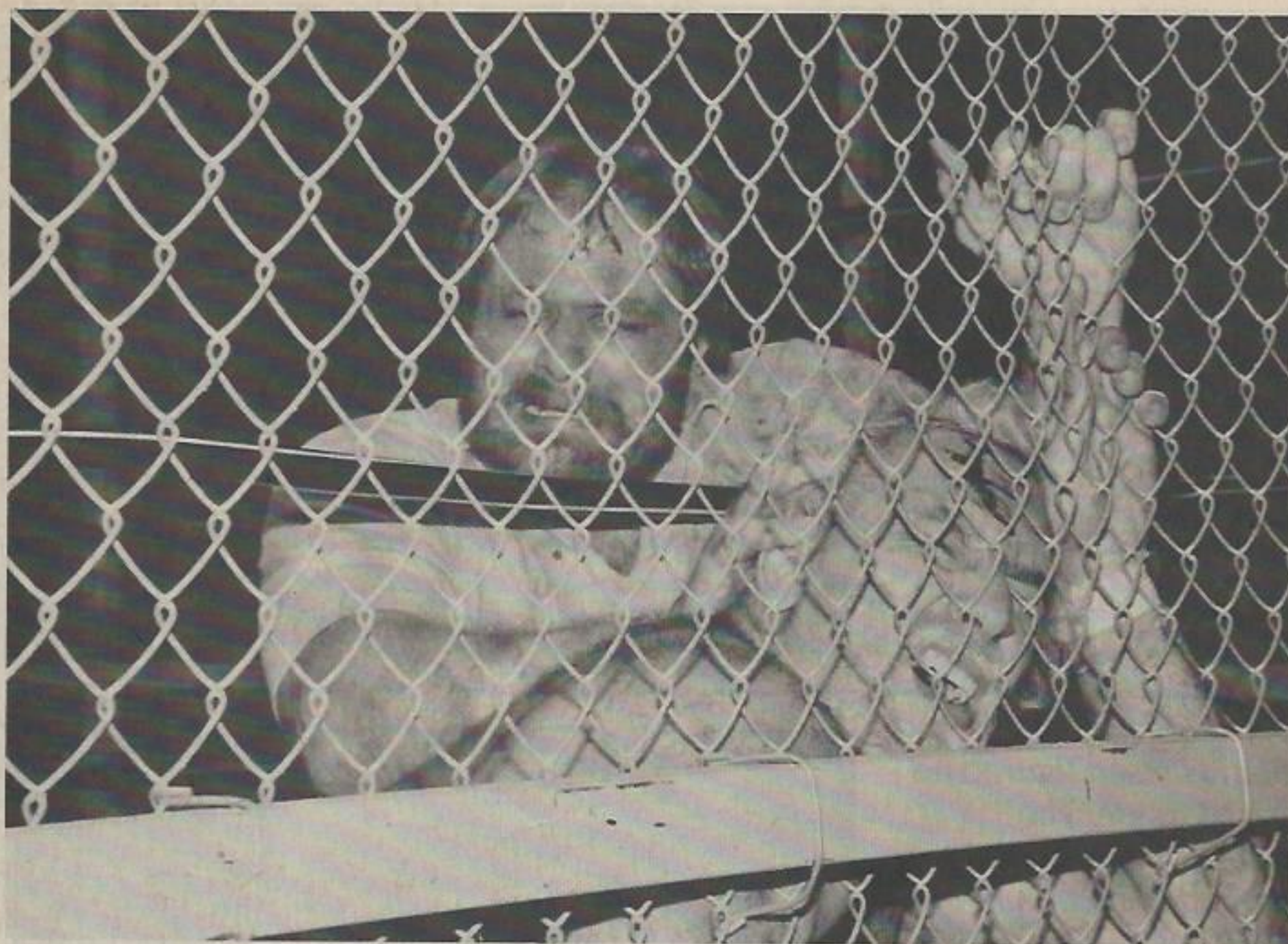
They battled like men possessed. Most of the observers on hand say it was from the loss of blood that Sawyer's pace slowed first. Indeed,

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Rich runs Sawyer backfirst into the steel mesh (right). A weakened Sawyer cannot garner the strength to execute a piledriver (below left). Ellering, out of his cage, sees to his blood-soaked warrior (below right).







his face was a nightmarish lesson in disgust: The cage had reduced his head to a horrible combination of blood and ripped flesh. The wound would not soon heal.

In the end, it was an exhausted Tommy Rich who managed to drag himself atop a nearly unconscious Buzz Sawyer, but few fans who witnessed the horror would grant Tommy the fact that he had won the match. Both men were losers in the most gruesome sense of the word.

The steel cage had claimed two more victims.

The door to the cage opened and several Omni ushers, aided by Chief Joe Lightfoot and Ronnie Garvin, carried Rich back to his dressing room. Rich didn't have enough energy to stand up, much less walk under his own power.

Then the second cage was lowered and Ellering was set free. He ran into the ring and helped Sawyer struggle out of the cage. Several

Objecting to Ellering's presence in the ring, Ole Anderson goes on the attack (above). Soon, Ellering and Anderson stain the ring with their own blood (below).



more Omni ushers plus several police officers at ringside aided Sawyer in returning to his dressing room.

At that moment, Ole Anderson ran toward the cage and pushed a frantically protesting Ellering inside. Anderson proceeded to beat Ellering to a bloody pulp, though not nearly to the degree with which Rich and Sawyer had brutalized each other.

The fans cheered Anderson as he pummeled Ellering and ran his head into the cage. In a way it was fortunate: The fans were being spared the pain of thinking about the ghastly war they had just witnessed.

But back in their respective dressing rooms, Tommy Rich and Buzz Sawyer began the long and arduous process of recovery. The blood would soon stop flowing, but they would wear the scars of their battle—both physical and psychological—for the rest of their lives. □



# The Savagery Of A Bullrope Match

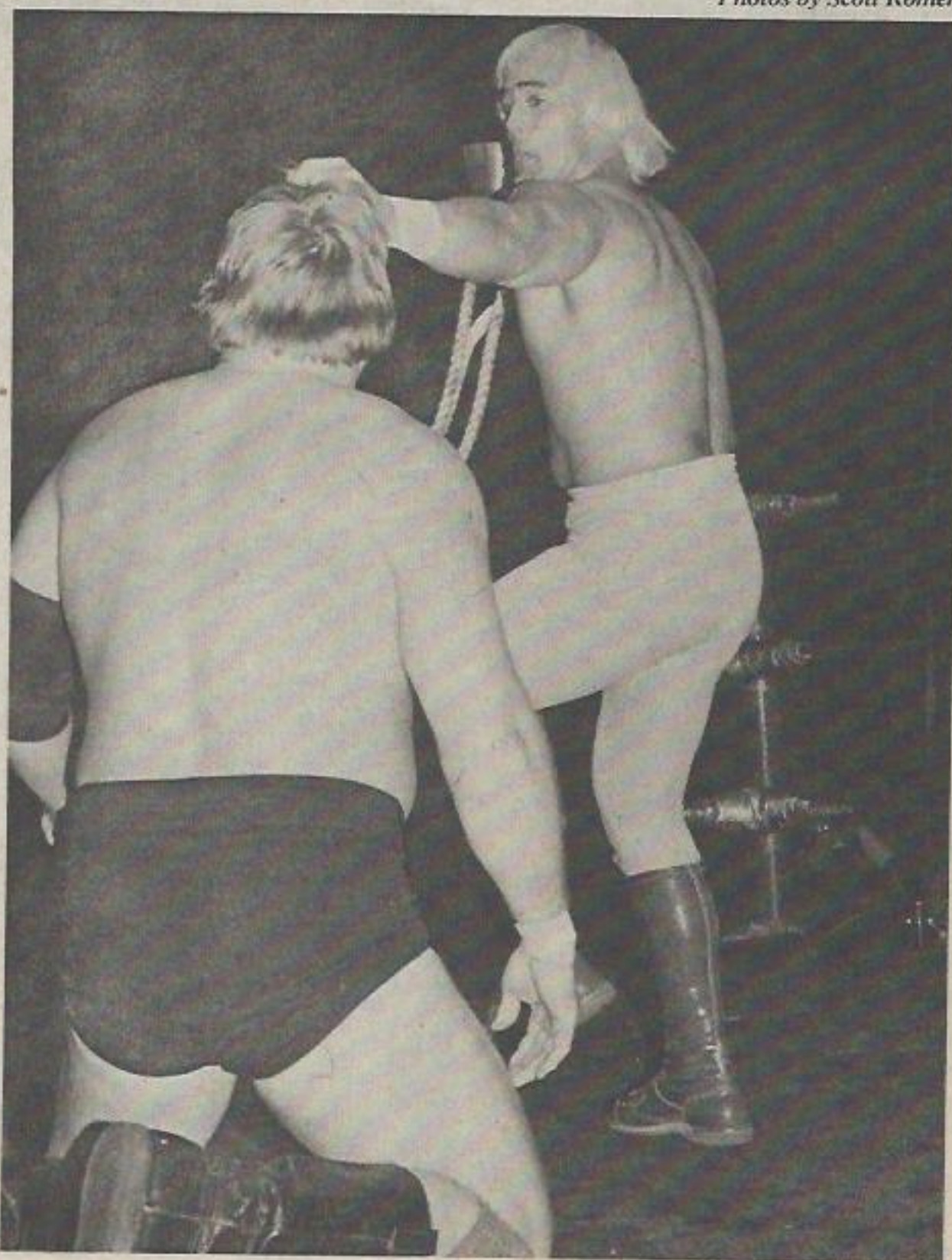
## AUSTIN IDOL BEATS STAN HANSEN AT HIS OWN BRUTAL GAME!

Photos by Scott Romer

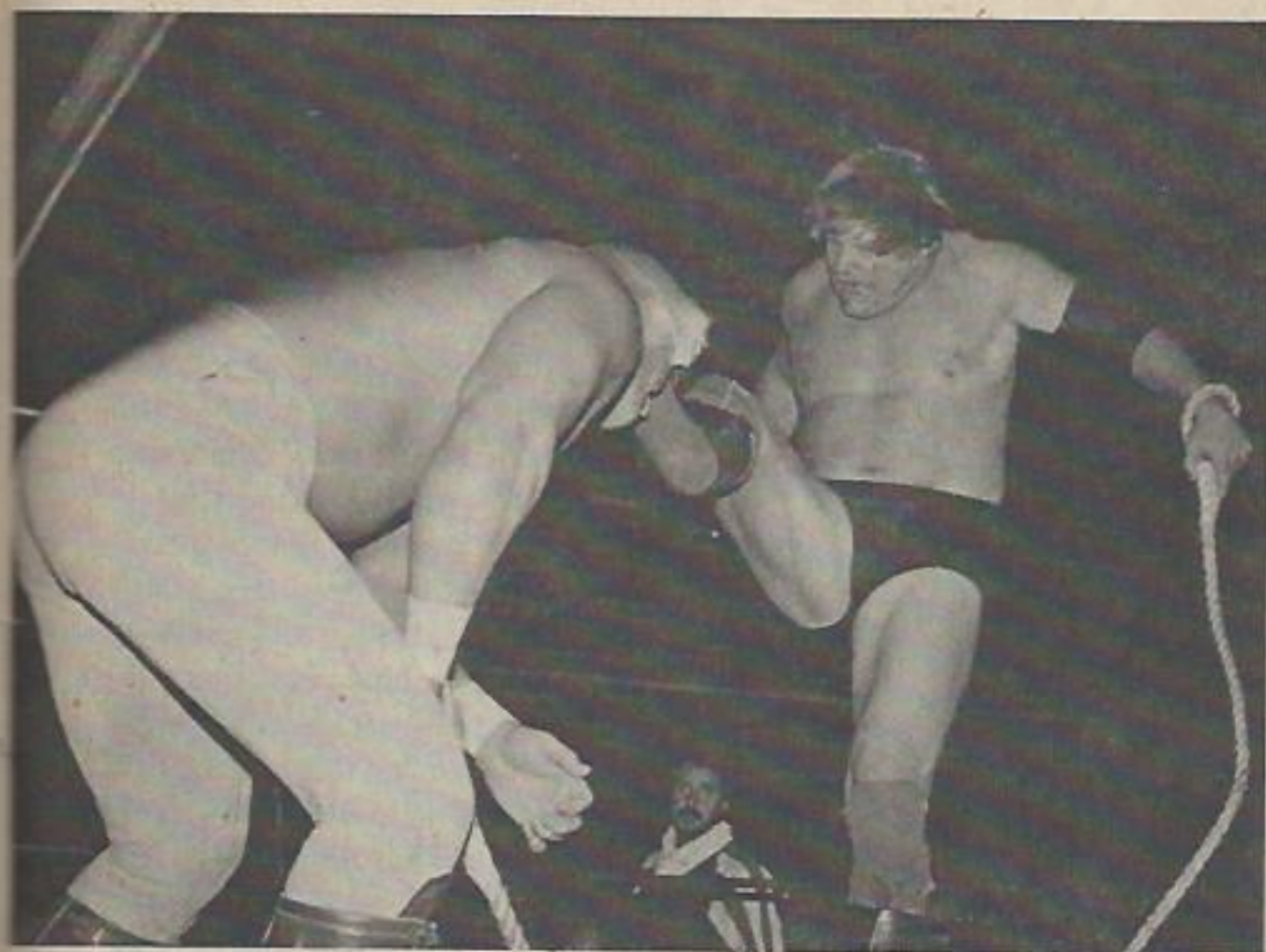
*Stan Hansen figured he had it made. The moment Austin Idol agreed to meet him in a Bullrope Match, Hansen figured he was one match away from winning the Mid-Southern International title and sending Idol to a hospital bed. He was to learn that "one match away" was farther than he ever imagined!*

**T**HE PHONE STARTED ringing almost immediately. Friends, acquaintances, and even well-meaning strangers called Austin Idol begging him to reconsider. A man might as well leap into a pit of rattlesnakes, they argued. At least the ordeal would be over sooner.

Idol answered each call politely, though his civility became strained







Hansen shows his punting style on Idol's face (top left) and then tries to take him for a journey around the ring (above). The determined Mid-Southern International champion reverses the situation and, as a worried Jimmy Hart observes from ringside, touches one of the four ringposts required for victory (left).

as the calls continued. It was his decision, he told them, and he knew what he was doing. It was a risk, he admitted, but nothing worthwhile comes without risks. Stan Hansen can be beaten, Idol argued. It was more than that. Hansen *had* to be beaten.

Still, the people begged. They pointed out that Hansen is getting Idol just where he wants him. To wrestle Hansen in a Bullrope Match is tantamount to suicide. Hansen is an expert in these confrontations. Using every illegal advantage known, he can tear a man

to bloody shreds. Though Idol had wrestled in other Bullrope Matches, Hansen regularly made a savage art of it. The annals of the sport contain more than a dozen names of men hospitalized after Hansen met them in Bullrope Matches. Several of those men, no longer in wrestling, were among those asking Austin to reconsider.

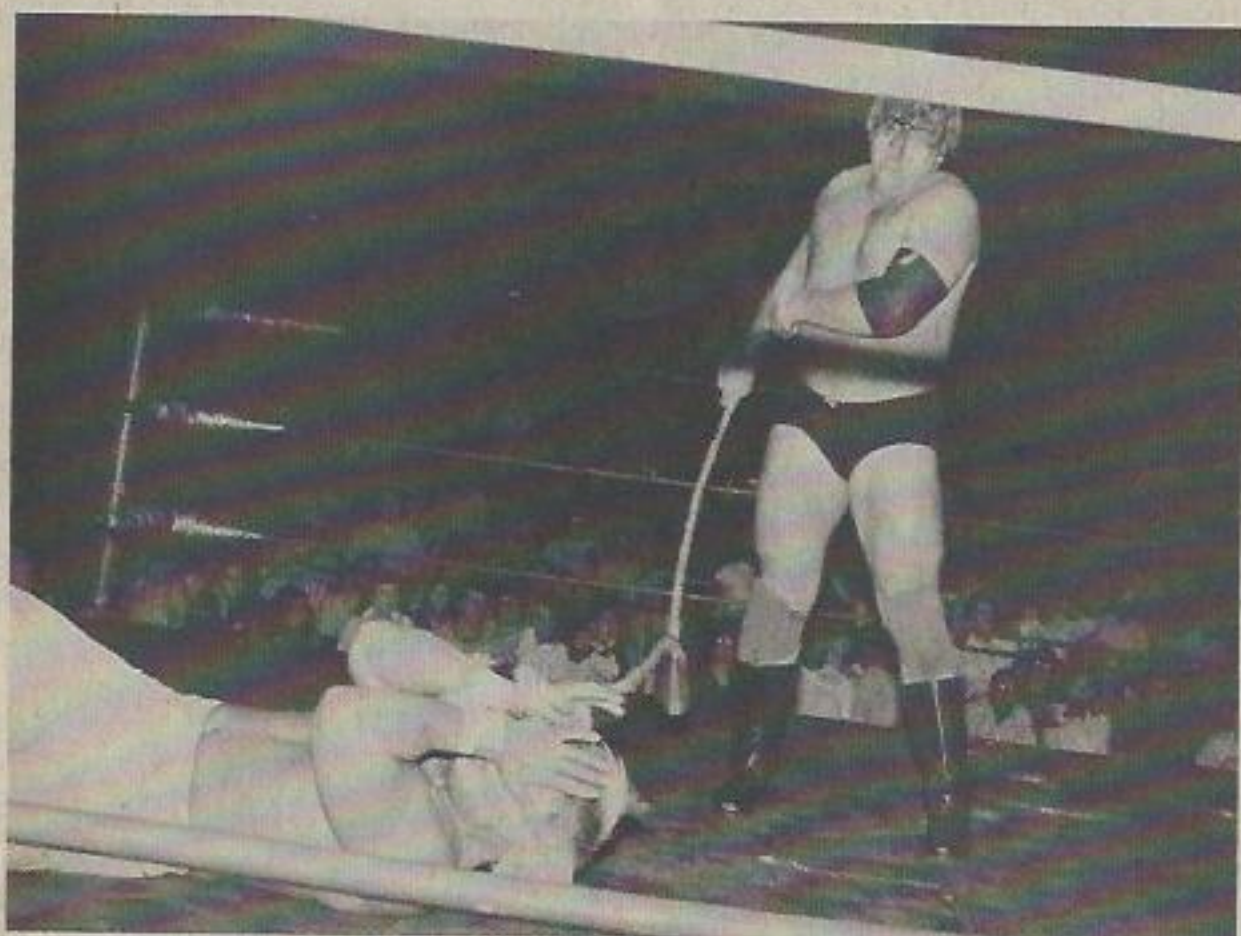
Eventually, Idol took his phone off the hook. He didn't need to hear any more. He knew what he was getting into. Manager Jimmy Hart had been trying to get Idol out of the area for months. But,

despite Hart's especially ugly brand of cheating, the Mid-Southern International champion continued to turn back every challenger.

Then Hart brought in Hansen. After several inconclusive battles, Hansen made his Texas Bullrope challenge. In this match, the two men are tied together at the wrist by a bullrope. In the middle is tied a cowbell, a heavy metal instrument that rings each time one man bashes it against the other's skull. These matches are often bloodbaths. Many top grapplers refuse to even consider them, especially against a man of Hansen's savage skills. Idol bravely (some thought foolishly) accepted.

The night of the match arrived. Both men nervously approached the ring. Hansen's eyes were almost closed; they were two small slits from which came a burning gaze. Idol tried to look stoic, not allowing any feature on his face to betray emotion. Wordlessly, they al-





Once again, the challenger is in command. But after Idol wipes the blood from his eyes, he can clearly see what is happening to him (above). Hansen, blinded by his own manager, will soon lose a match he was heavily favored to win (below).



lowed the referee to tie them together. They tugged at the bullrope. The bell clanged as it swayed from the tugging. Even Hart was uncustomarily quiet.

Then came the moment of decision. The match began. With a powerful tug, Hansen drew a stumbling Idol toward him. Austin took advantage of the momentum and ran right at Hansen, bringing him to the ground. Idol tried to fall atop his opponent, only to have the bullrope snake across his face.

Hansen is very skillful at making the rope slash at his opponent.

Idol stumbled back, trying to conquer the agony of the rope's sting. Hansen leaped to his feet and went on the attack. It was a cruel exhibition of wrestling brutality.

Just when it seemed Idol was being overwhelmed by the assault, the champion came back. With a precision that Hansen never expected, Idol rocked his challenger repeatedly. Idol cracked the cowbell against Hansen's skull. In defense,

Hansen used the rope to do his bidding, snaking it across Idol's face. Soon both men's foreheads were oozing blood. This is what one expects from a Bullrope Match.

To win this contest, one man had to drag the other around the ring, touching all four ringposts during his journey. It seemed as if Idol might manage this arduous trek. He went to one ringpost and touched it, dragging a battered Hansen behind him. But that appeared to be all he could get. Hansen struggled to his feet and rushed at Idol. Stan held the bell in his grip, ready to club his foe into unconsciousness. Then it happened.

A puff of powder, thrown by Hart, flew into the ring. But Idol, ready for something like this, quickly turned his head. The full cloud of blinding dust covered the charging Hansen's face. Unable to see, Hansen stumbled backward. Involuntarily, he dropped the bell as both hands instinctively went to his eyes. Hansen was helpless.

The crowd roared as Idol again began to drag his foe around the ring. One post, a second, and then a third was touched. In his wake, Idol left a trail of blood, both his own and Hansen's. When he touched the fourth post, the crowd gave him a standing ovation. He had beaten Hansen not only in a Bullrope Match, but because of Hart's interference. Convincingly, he established his dominance over rulebreakers in the Mid-Southern area.

Hansen untied himself as soon as possible and was led away from the ring by his manager. Later, no one dared ask Hart what Hansen said to him in the dressing room. The manager was shaking too badly to answer, anyway.

Idol was tempted to call back all those who urged him not to wrestle Hansen. Instead, that night he lay back on his bed knowing they knew he was thinking of them. □



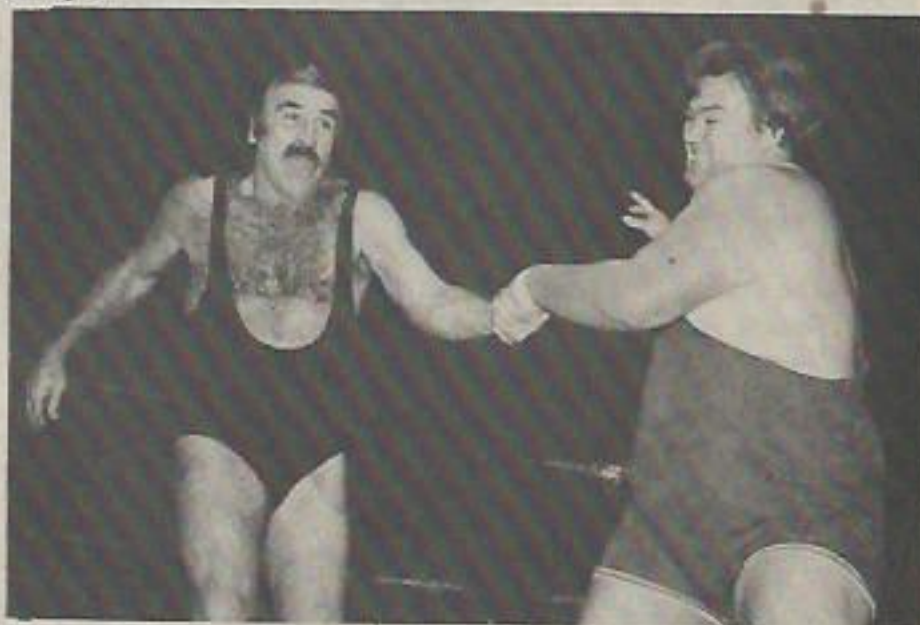
# KANSAS CITY CHAOS:

## A NIGHT OF SUPERSTAR ACTION

Photos by Bill Apter



*Ron Ritchie & Angelo Mosca Jr.*



*Jerry Brown vs. Mike Pagan*

ONCE AGAIN, *Sports Review Wrestling* assembles a top-quality collection of photos from a single evening of exciting mat action. This issue we highlight the stars of Kansas City wrestling.

Our first match takes a look at the hottest new tag team in the Kansas City area: Angelo Mosca Jr. and Ron Ritchie. After beginning his pro career in sensational fashion in Florida, Rookie of the Year Mosca Jr. has exploded throughout the Kansas City area, and the combination of Mosca Jr. and Ritchie is being touted by many fans as the next team to wear the Central States tag team belts.

Next we look at Big Mike Pagan, viewed by some as a young Chris Taylor. Chris Taylor was the 1972 Olympic freestyle bronze medalist who was forced to end his pro career in 1977 because of illness, and then died two years later at age 29 from heart failure. Many say that Taylor never realized his potential as a pro, but that Mike Pagan, similar to Taylor in build, will one day be a champion. Our match from Kansas City pits Pagan against Jerry Brown.

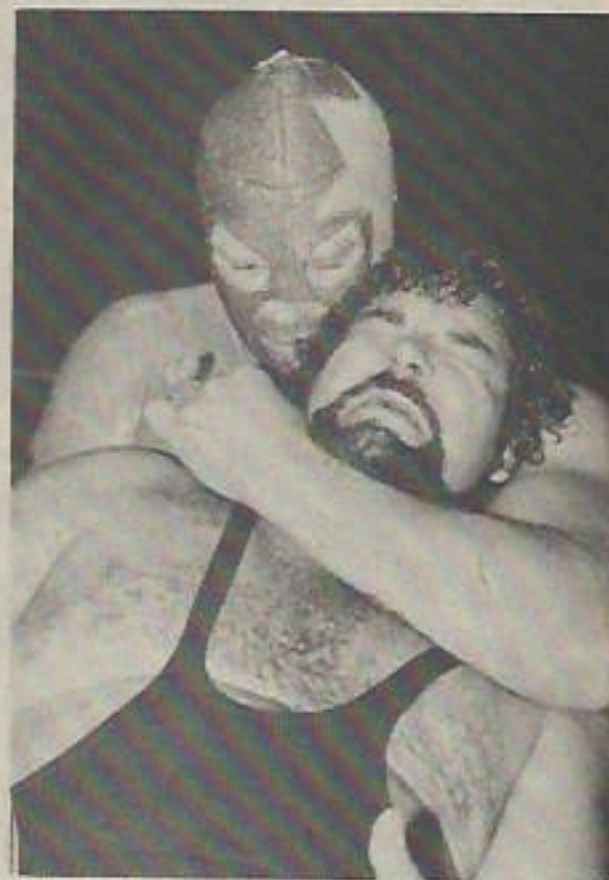
European Heavyweight champion



*Killer Krupp vs. Bob Brown*

Killer Karl Krupp faces off against top fan favorite Bulldog Bob Brown in our third featured match. The title was on the line, and the furious match ended in a highly controversial manner.

The main event was a Loser Leave Town Match between Buzz "Avalanche" Tyler and Super



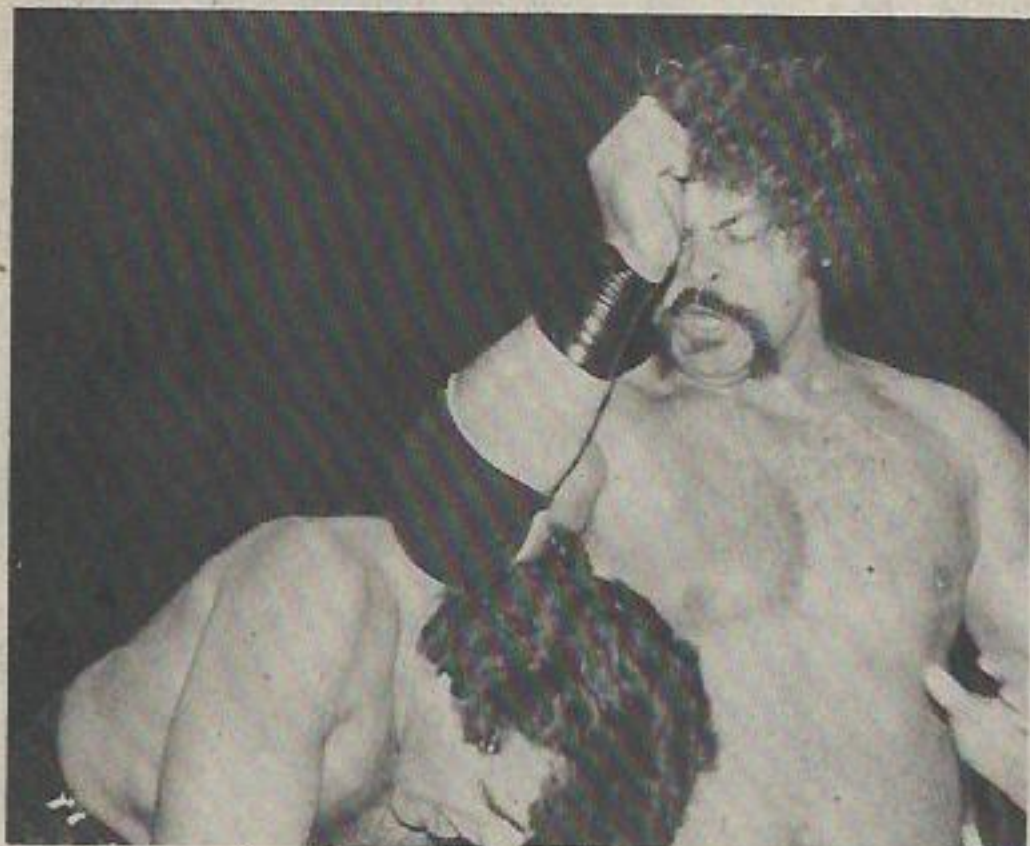
*Super Destroyer vs. Avalanche Tyler*

Destroyer, the culmination of a feud that had continued in the area for months. Who won't be returning to Kansas City in the near future? You'll find out when you scan the photos on page 44.

Action . . . excitement . . . thrills. It's all there in Kansas City, and now it's here at your fingertips. Enjoy!



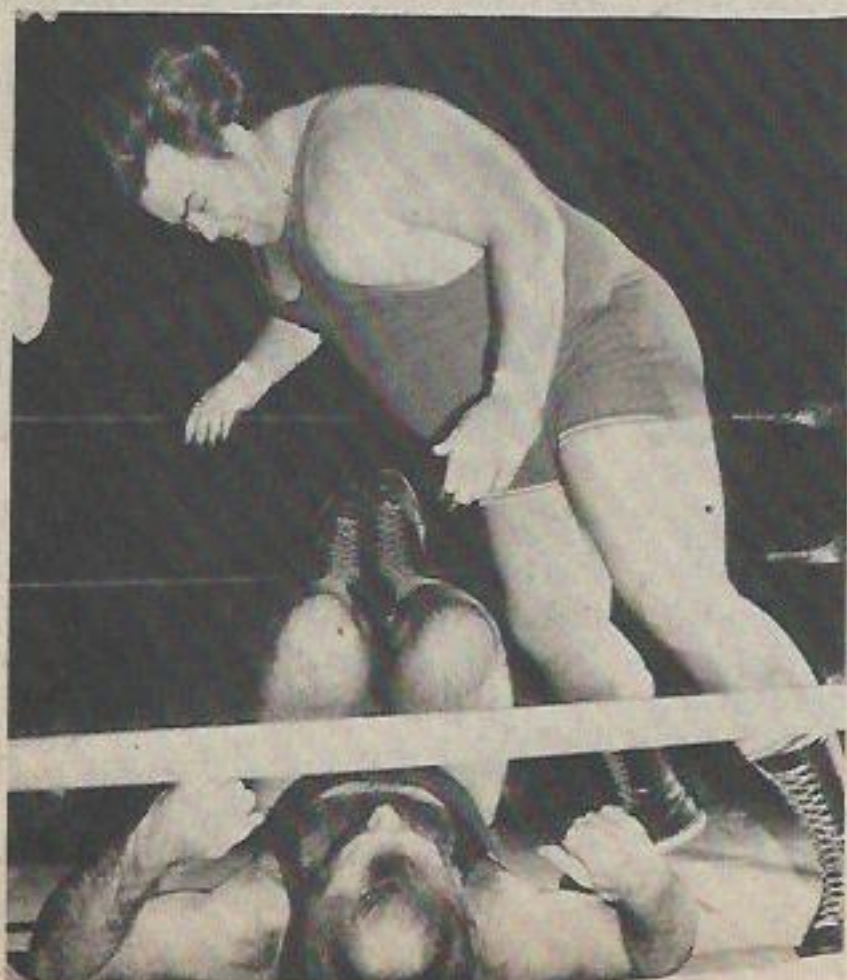
## Angelo Mosca Jr. & Ron Ritchie vs. Tonga John & Doug Sommers



Above: Tonga John drives his elbow into the back of Mosca Jr.'s neck. Right: Ritchie, bodyslamming Sommers, played a large part in his team's victory.



## Big Mike Pagan vs. Jerry Brown



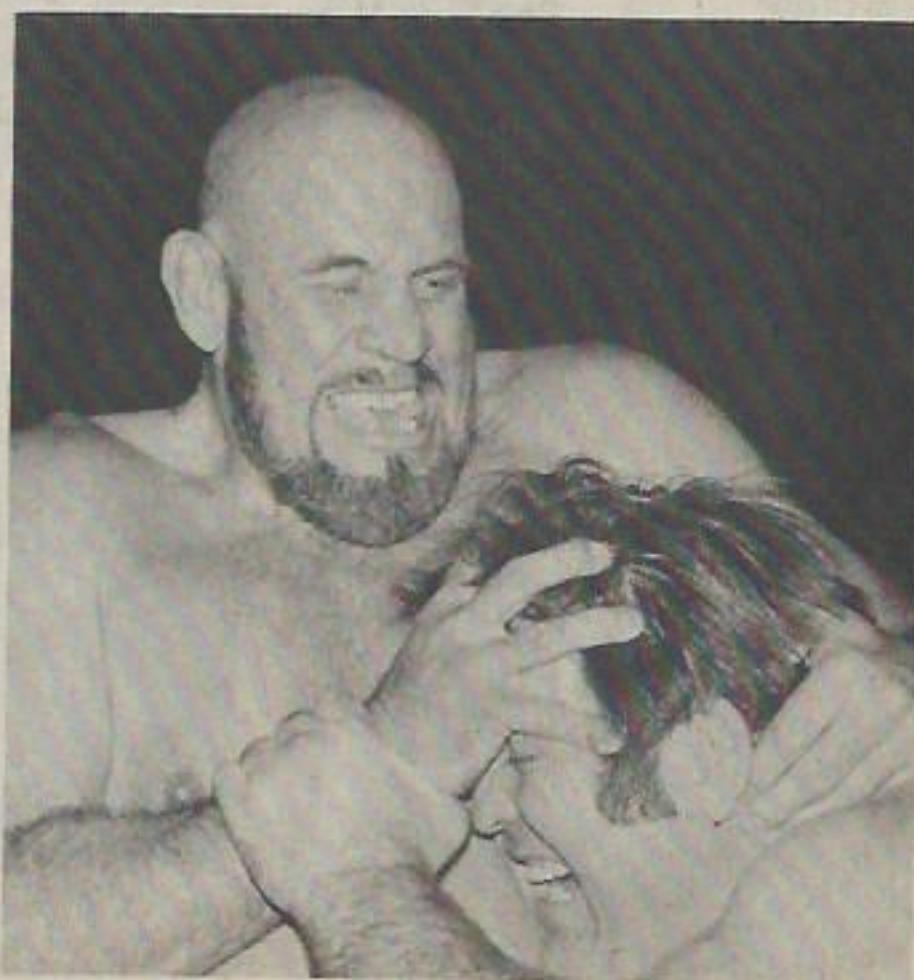
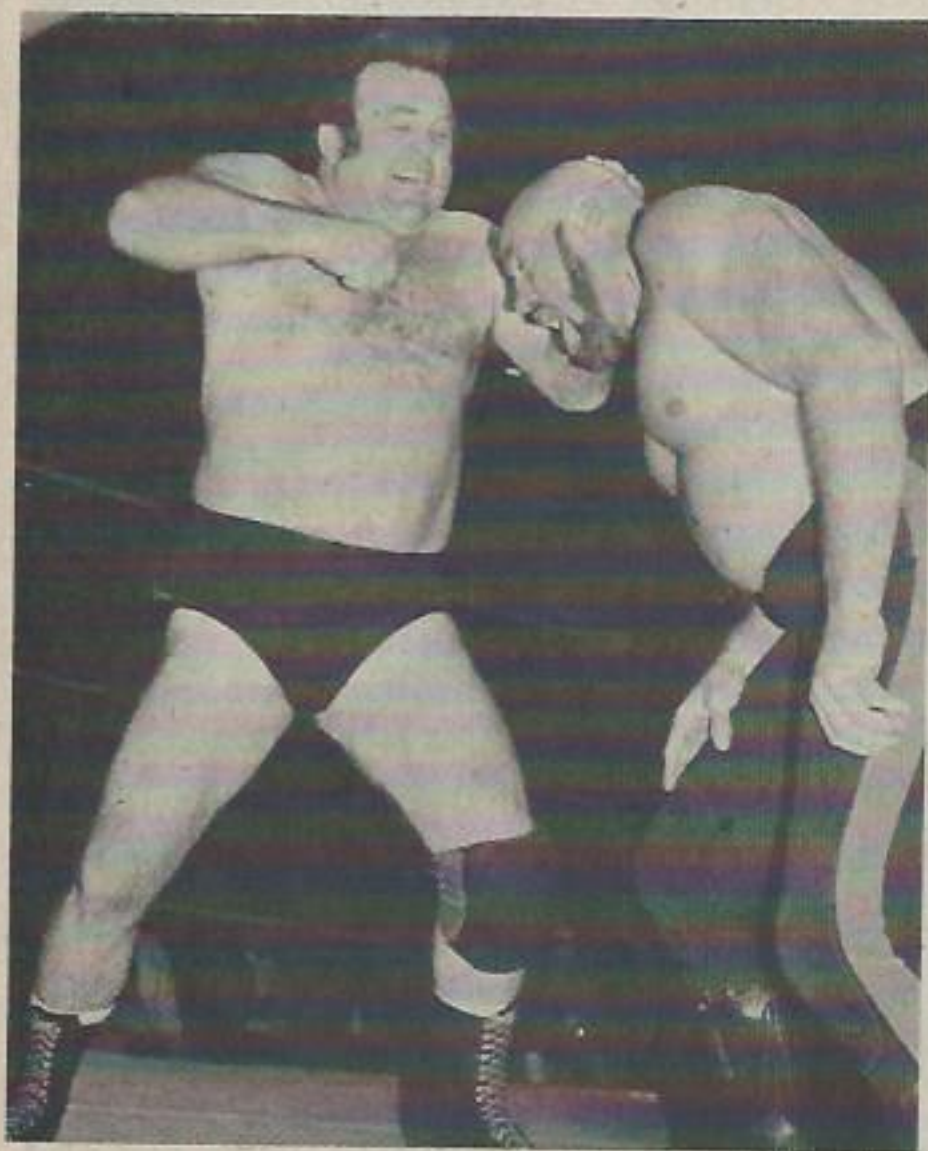
Top left: Pagan backdrops Brown. Left: Brown alertly throws his knees in front of a dropping Pagan, but all he gets for his effort is crushed knees. Above: Referee Jim McGuire awarded the match to Pagan, who was severely beaten with a metallic object.



# Killer Karl Krupp (European Champion) vs. Bulldog Bob Brown



Top left: Krupp seems to be enjoying his prematch attack on Brown. Top right: The European champ kicks his challenger in the midsection. Left: Brown unleashes his potent right hand. Below: Krupp was disqualified when he refused to release his clawhold after gaining the submission.

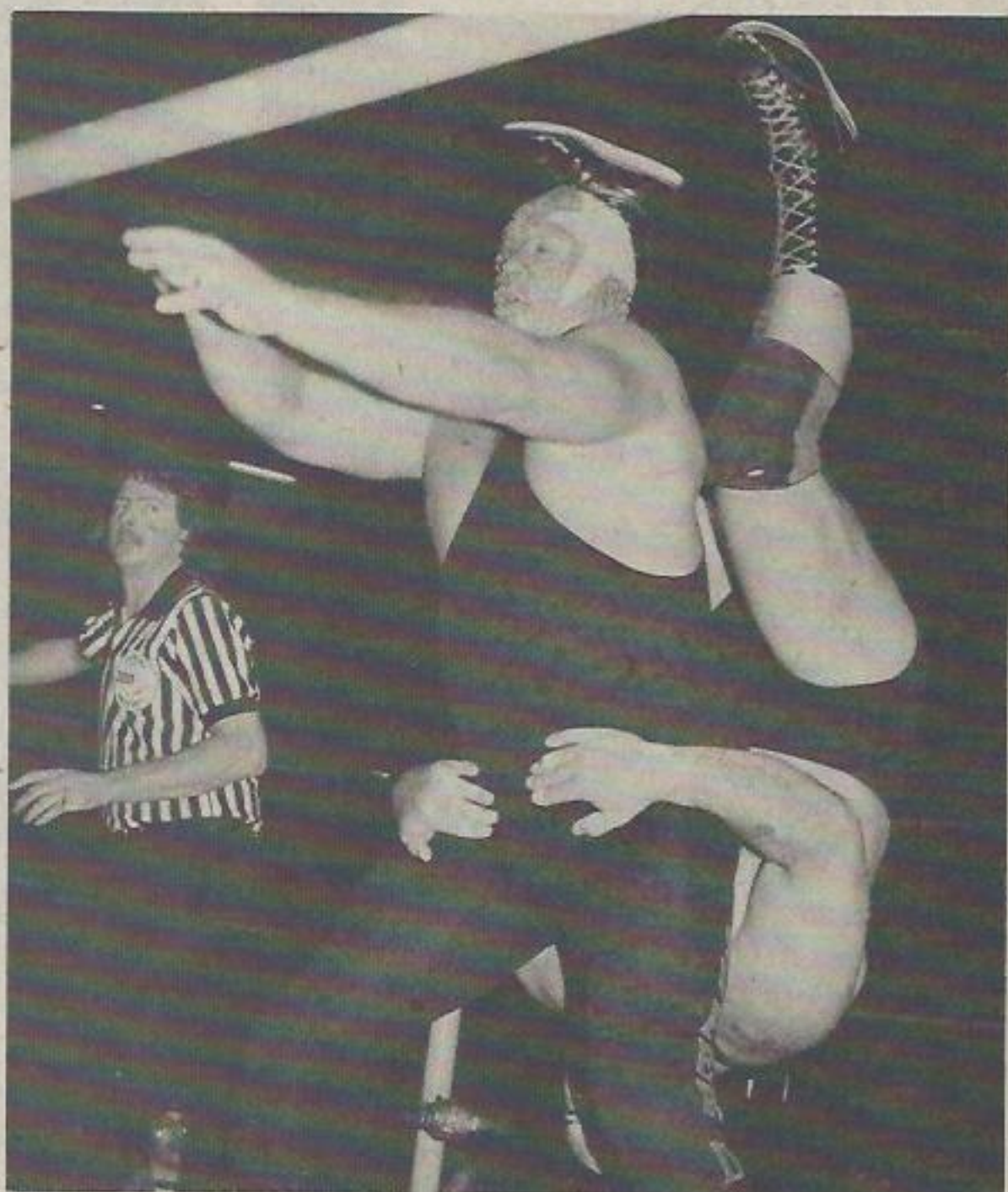
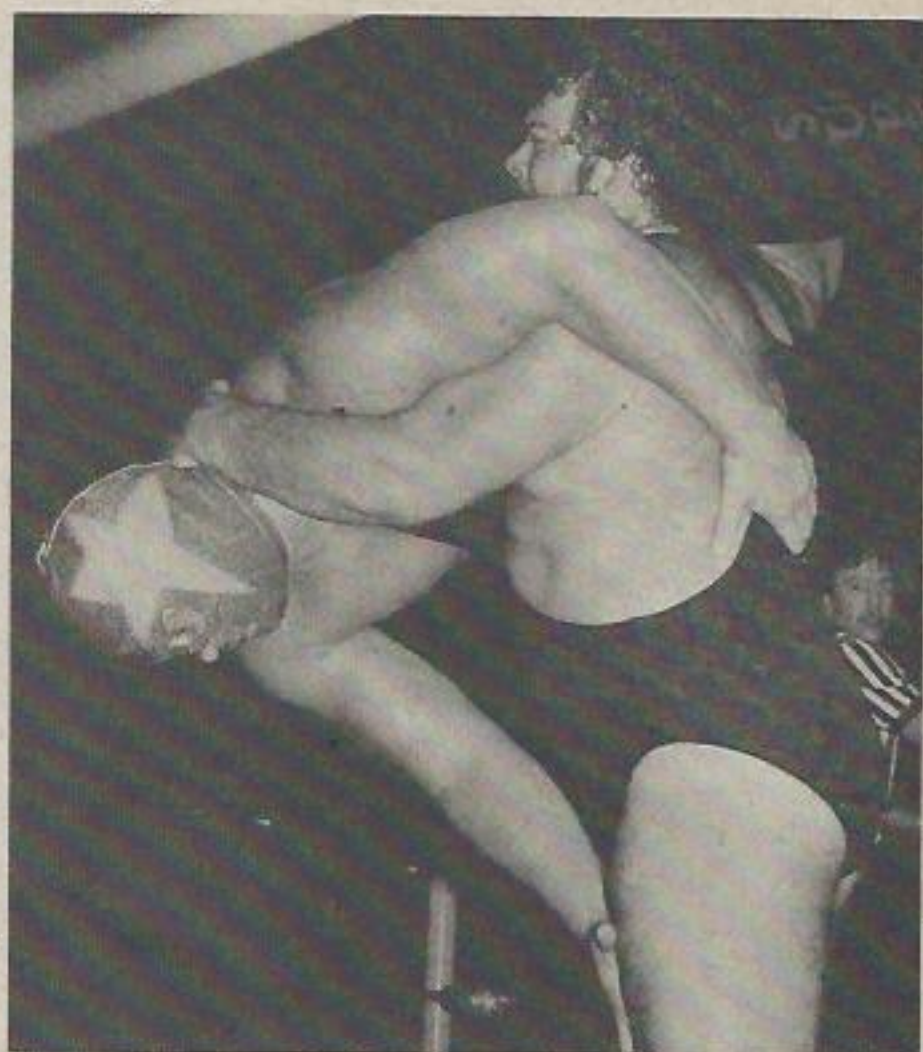




# **LOSER LEAVE TOWN MATCH** **Buzz "Avalanche" Tyler vs. Super Destroyer**



Above: Tyler, his throat draped across the ropes, gasps for air.  
 Right: Avalanche delivers a powerslam against his hated rival.



Top left: After failing to put Tyler away with this bodypress, Super Destroyer's effectiveness diminished noticeably. Left: Tyler ignores the ref's warnings. Above: Avalanche wins the match at the 53-minute mark, seven minutes before the time limit would expire.



# RATINGS ANALYSIS

**Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans**

**H**ello, goodbye! A big change on our ratings pages this issue, as we welcome a new territory, the Mid-Southern region, and drop the Southwest.



*Jerry Lawler*

The Mid-Southern area, featuring such top stars as Jerry "The King" Lawler, Jesse "The Body" Ventura, and "The Universal Heartthrob" Austin Idol, covers Tennessee, Kentucky, and the surrounding areas. As far as the top 10 in that area is concerned, we will be rating the Mid-Southern International heavyweight champion (currently Idol) in the

number one spot. The AWA Mid-Southern heavyweight titlist (currently Ventura) will be ranked in the number two position. Any deviations from this standard will be explained in a future "Ratings Analysis."

There were several reasons for the decision to drop Southwest area ratings, but the primary one involves the area's "undisputed world heavyweight title." When Scott Casey defeated Adrian Adonis for that belt, he retired the title. So a listing of the top contenders for a title that no longer exists becomes somewhat superfluous.

We will, of course, continue to feature coverage of the stars of Southwest wrestling in this magazine's various columns and in feature stories. On occasion, we will also present a list of the top 10 in the Southwest in a future "Ratings Analysis," as we did last month with Puerto Rico's World Wrestling Council.

**Abdullah's bloody trail of horror.** It seems that all of a sudden Abdullah the Butcher is everywhere... and where Abdullah goes, a bloody trail of mayhem is left

behind in his wake.

Abdullah's current rampage has catapulted him into three different ratings departments.



*Abdullah the Butcher*

● In Florida, Abdullah has concentrated his attack on "The American Dream," Dusty Rhodes. Match after bloody match has brought the collective hatred of thousands of fans upon him. The lack of a clear-cut victor in those matches has actually improved The Butcher's standing in the Florida area ratings: Dusty is raised number three while Abdullah is holding strong in the number four spot.

● In Georgia, Abdullah has made a series of appearances that are notable for their excessive brutality. While his extensive activities in the Sunshine State prevent him from spending time in Georgia on a regular basis, his few appearances have bumped him into the Georgia area ratings at the number eight position.

● You don't mutilate a man like Dusty Rhodes, and you don't come into an area like Georgia and wreak havoc, without paying for those actions—at least in the hearts of the fans. Dusty is trying hard to turn back Abdullah's challenge in Florida, but he's been losing a lot of blood as a result of that ghastly feud. The fans are not at all pleased. Abdullah the Butcher moves from number eight up to the number two spot in the Most Hated ratings this month.

**The address for mail:** We always welcome your comments on our ratings system. Send them to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o Sports Review Wrestling, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □



# OFFICIAL WRESTLING

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.



Nick Bockwinkel



Mil Mascaras

## TOP 10

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1— <b>HARLEY RACE</b><br>253, Kansas City, MO       | 6— <b>BARRY WINDHAM</b><br>230, Sweetwater, TX     |
| 2— <b>ANDRE THE GIANT</b><br>497, Grenoble, France  | 7— <b>DAVID VON ERICH</b><br>247, Denton, TX       |
| 3— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>320, Venice Beach, CA       | 8— <b>BOB BACKLUND</b><br>242, Princeton, MN       |
| 4— <b>NICK BOCKWINKEL</b><br>245, Beverly Hills, CA | 9— <b>MIL MASCARAS</b><br>242, Mexico City, Mexico |
| 5— <b>DUSTY RHODES</b><br>302, Austin, TX           | 10— <b>GREG VALENTINE</b><br>243, Seattle, WA      |

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—**JIMMY SNUKA**  
250, Fiji Islands
- 2—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 3—**ANDRE THE GIANT**  
497, Grenoble, France
- 4—**JUNKYARD DOG**  
260, New Orleans, LA
- 5—**HULK HOGAN**  
320, Venice Beach, CA
- 6—**DAVID VON ERICH**  
247, Denton, TX
- 7—**TOMMY RICH**  
238, Hendersonville, TN
- 8—**BARRY WINDHAM**  
230, Sweetwater, TX
- 9—**BOB BACKLUND**  
242, Princeton, MN
- 10—**MIKE ROTONDO**  
245, Syracuse, NY

## MOST HATED

- 1—**GREG VALENTINE**  
243, Seattle, WA
- 2—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**  
360, Sudan
- 3—**JAKE ROBERTS**  
243, Baton Rouge, LA
- 4—**HACKSAW REED**  
249, Kansas City, MO
- 5—**MR. SAITO**  
247, Japan
- 6—**TED DIBIASE**  
247, Omaha, NE
- 7—**RON BASS**  
285, Tampa, FL
- 8—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**  
262, Sunset Beach, HI
- 9—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**  
235, Boston, MA
- 10—**MICHAEL HAYES**  
255, Marietta, GA

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—**JACK & JERRY BRISCO**  
Combined Weight: 455 pounds
- 2—**KEN PATERA & CRUSHER BLACKWELL**  
Combined Weight: 710 pounds
- 3—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**  
Combined Weight: 567 pounds
- 4—**THE FREEBIRDS**  
Combined Weight: 791 pounds\*
- 5—**ELIJAH AKEEM & KAREEM MUHAMMAD**  
Combined Weight: 578 pounds
- 6—**THE SAMOANS**  
Combined Weight: 598 pounds
- 7—**BUTCH REED & JIM NEIDHART**  
Combined Weight: 497 pounds
- 8—**STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE**  
Combined Weight: 439 pounds
- 9—**THE MASKED MEDICS**  
Combined Weight: 477 pounds
- 10—**RICK STEAMBOAT & JAY YOUNGBLOOD**  
Combined Weight: 475 pounds

\*Combined weights reflect three team members

## NWA

World Champion:

**HARLEY RACE**  
253, Kansas City, MO

- 1—**GREG VALENTINE**  
243, Seattle, WA
- 2—**DAVID VON ERICH**  
247, Denton, TX
- 3—**BARRY WINDHAM**  
230, Sweetwater, TX
- 4—**BRETT WAYNE**  
242, St. Petersburg, FL
- 5—**RUFUS R. JONES**  
287, Boston, MA
- 6—**MIKE ROTONDO**  
245, Syracuse, NY
- 7—**RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—**TOMMY RICH**  
238, Hendersonville, TN
- 9—**AVALANCHE TYLER**  
321, Nashville, TN
- 10—**CARLOS COLON**  
238, Bayamon, Puerto Rico

## AWA

World Champion:

**NICK BOCKWINKEL**  
245, Beverly Hills, CA

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**  
320, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**MAD DOG VACHON**  
225, Algeria
- 3—**RICK MARTEL**  
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 4—**BRAD RHEINGANS**  
248, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—**MR. SAITO**  
247, Osaka, Japan
- 6—**KEN PATERA**  
256, Portland, OR
- 7—**BILLY ROBINSON**  
246, Manchester, England
- 8—**GREG GAGNE**  
220, Robinsdale, MN
- 9—**DAVID SHULTZ**  
265, Memphis, TN
- 10—**BLACKJACK LANZA**  
260, Laredo, TX



# ICIAL IG RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

## WWF

Champion:

**BOB BACKLUND**  
242, Princeton, MN

- 1—**MASKED SUPERSTAR**  
282, Atlanta, GA
- 2—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**  
262, Sunset Beach, HI
- 3—**JIMMY SNUKA**  
250, Fiji Islands
- 4—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
310, Paris Island, SC
- 5—**TITO SANTANA**  
245, Mission, TX
- 6—**IRON SHEIK**  
262, Teheran, Iran
- 7—**TONY ATLAS**  
247, Roanoke, VA
- 8—**ROCKY JOHNSON**  
244, Washington, DC
- 9—**IVAN PUTSKI**  
242, Krakow, Poland
- 10—**JOHN STUDD**  
364, Washington, DC

## GEORGIA

- 1—**BRETT WAYNE**  
242, St. Petersburg, FL
- 2—**JAKE ROBERTS**  
243, Baton Rouge, LA
- 3—**BUZZ SAWYER**  
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 4—**TOMMY RICH**  
238, Hendersonville, TN
- 5—**TED DIBLASE**  
247, Omaha, NE
- 6—**RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 7—**PEZ WHATLEY**  
238, El Paso, TX
- 8—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**  
360, Sudan
- 9—**KING KONG BUNDY**  
420, Atlantic City, NJ
- 10—**MR. WRESTLING II**  
232, Atlanta, GA

## FLORIDA

- 1—**MIKE ROTONDO**  
245, Syracuse, NY
- 2—**BARRY WINDHAM**  
230, Sweetwater, TX
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**  
360, Sudan
- 5—**RON BASS**  
285, Pampa, TX
- 6—**MIKE GRAHAM**  
232, Tampa, FL
- 7—**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**  
310, Sweetwater, TX
- 8—**ELIJAH AKEEM**  
281, Africa
- 9—**KAREEM MUHAMMAD**  
297, Africa
- 10—**MIKE DAVIS**  
232, Atlanta, GA

## MID-ATLANTIC

- 1—**GREG VALENTINE**  
243, Seattle, WA
- 2—**RUFUS R. JONES**  
287, Boston, MA
- 3—**RODDY PIPER**  
231, Scotland
- 4—**DICK SLATER**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 5—**RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 6—**COWBOY BOB ORTON**  
245, Kansas City, KS
- 7—**THE GREAT KABUKI**  
252, Singapore
- 8—**CHARLIE BROWN**  
251, New York, NY
- 9—**BUGSY McGRAW**  
245, New York, NY
- 10—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**  
235, Boston, MA

## WORLD CLASS

- 1—**JIM GARVIN**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 2—**DAVID VON ERICH**  
247, Denton, TX
- 3—**KEVIN VON ERICH**  
254, Denton, TX
- 4—**MICHAEL HAYES**  
255, Marietta, GA
- 5—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
251, Denton, TX
- 6—**ICEMAN PARSONS**  
242, St. Louis, MO
- 7—**KAMALA**  
360, Uganda
- 8—**CHRIS ADAMS**  
225, Stratford on Avon, England
- 9—**TERRY GORDY**  
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 10—**SUPER DESTROYER**  
271, parts unknown

## MID-SOUTH

- 1—**TERRY ALLEN**  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 2—**HACKSAW REED**  
249, Kansas City, MO
- 3—**NIKOLAI VOLKOFF**  
345, Siberia, Russia
- 4—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
280, New York, NY
- 5—**JUNKYARD DOG**  
260, New Orleans, LA
- 6—**KAMALA**  
360, Uganda
- 7—**KING KONG BUNDY**  
420, Atlantic City, NJ
- 8—**CRUSHER DARSOW**  
303, Thief River Falls, MN
- 9—**BORIS ZURKHOV**  
239, Leningrad, Russia
- 10—**STEVE WILLIAMS**  
234, Tulsa, OK

## MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—**AUSTIN IDOL**  
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 2—**JESSE VENTURA**  
265, San Diego, CA
- 3—**JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN
- 4—**STAN HANSEN**  
243, Borger, TX
- 5—**BILL DUNDEE**  
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 6—**DUTCH MANTEL**  
224, Oil Trough, TX
- 7—**STEVE KEIRN**  
220, Tampa, FL
- 8—**STAN LANE**  
219, Del Ray, FL
- 9—**DENNIS CONDREY**  
220, Pensicola, FL
- 10—**KOKO WARE**  
217, Union City, TN

## NORTHWEST

- 1—**BILLY JACK**  
245, Portland, OR
- 2—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE**  
245, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**DYNAMITE KID**  
225, England
- 4—**JULES STRONGBOW**  
247, Pawhuska, OK
- 5—**RIP OLIVER**  
245, Tampa, FL
- 6—**THE ASSASSIN**  
240, parts unknown
- 7—**CURT HENNIG**  
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—**MATT BORNE**  
240, Milwaukie, OR
- 9—**SHEIK ABDULLAH**  
235, Iran
- 10—**BRIAN ADIDAS**  
238, Dallas, TX





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## MARTEL-ORTON

(Continued from page 28)



Martel is congratulated by the fans after the grueling match, not knowing that despite the fact that the match was a draw, both he and Orton would be signing for world title matches minutes later.

And then they stood across the ring, moments before the match was set to begin. As they stared, Martel nodded at Orton. Orton's face twisted into a grin and he nodded back. Both men were acknowledging that this was for keeps.

The bell rang. With a studied quickness, the two men met and locked in the ring. They moved with animal grace, each one physically at his peak. At the outset, they were both understandably cautious. As the match progressed, they started taking

chances. Slowly but surely, they forced each other to the peak of his abilities, where they would both remain for the rest of the match.

It was an consummate exhibition of wrestling skill. First Martel gained the advantage, then Orton. The difference in styles was stunning. Martel was a textbook example of what wrestling should be; his maneuvers were imaginative and effective, all within the rules. Orton was brilliant in a different way. With a subtlety that kept him from the referee's detec-



tion, Orton broke every rule he could. Even Martel had to appreciate the ability with which he executed his treachery.

Slowly but surely, the seconds ticked away. The advantage changed hands only to see the momentum change again. Neither man surrendered, though the physical wear must have been tremendous. It was only fitting the match should go to the time limit, a draw. According to the fans, both men won.

Happily, both men won according to Geigel and Blackburn. In their pockets were contracts for upcoming title shots. The champions had already signed. In their dressing rooms, Orton and Martel made it official: They put their names on the dotted lines. They would get their title shots.

Orton probaby spoke for both of them when he said, "I couldn't be happier about this, but I never want to work so hard for a title shot again!"

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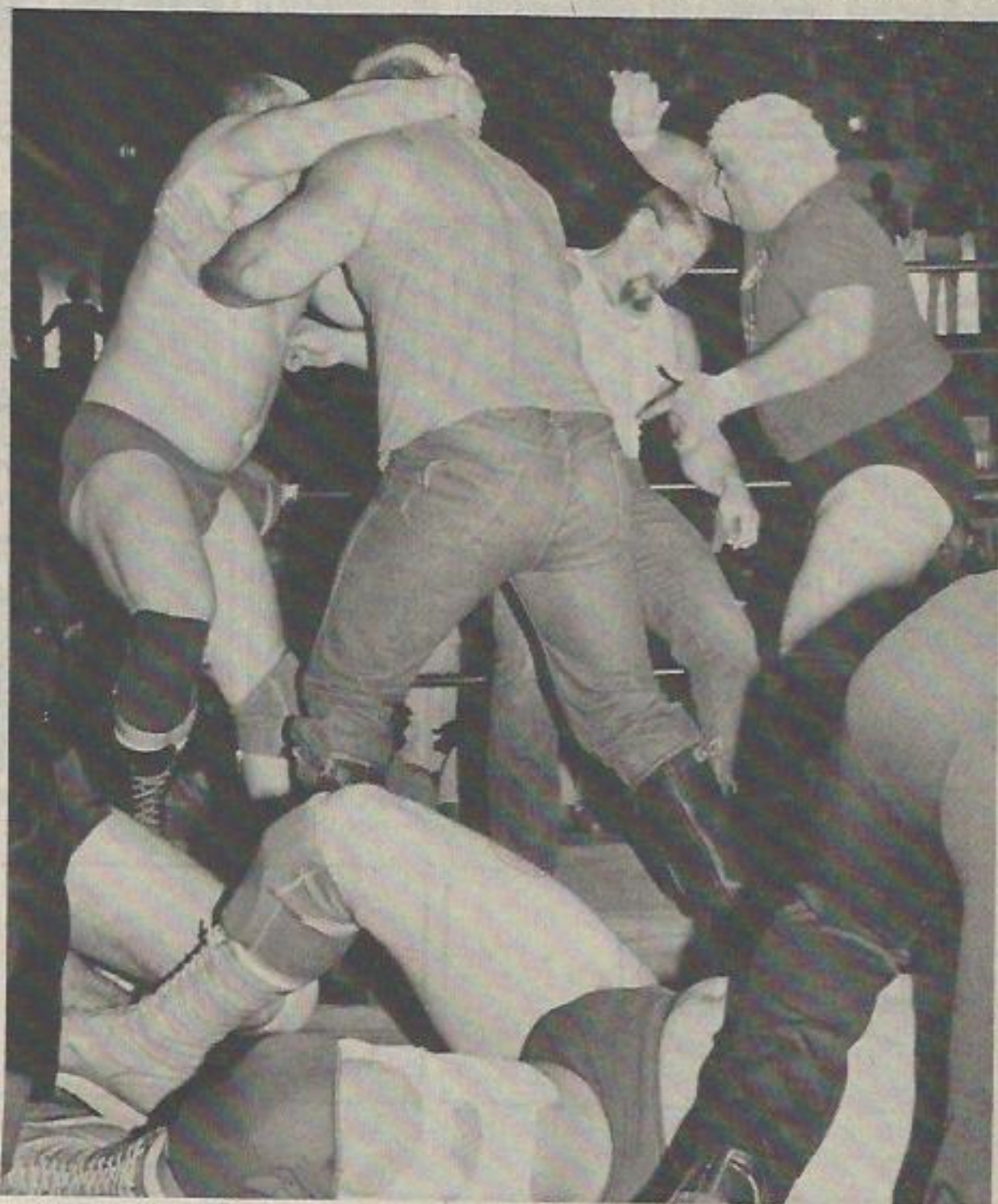
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**TATTLER**

(Continued from page 8)

champion Brett Wayne during his match with Jake "The Snake" Roberts. Buzz came running out of the dressing room area to help Brett—his brother. When Rhodes also ran out to help Brett, there were some tense moments as

The challenge was accepted. Both teams doled out and received a great deal of punishment, but in the end it was The Road Warriors who retreated to the dressing room area. Again, Dusty and Buzz shook hands on



**RHODES & SAWYER VS. THE ROAD WARRIORS**

Buzz and Dusty stared each other down trying to decide whether or not to attack the other.

After more than five minutes of indecision, Dusty and Buzz shook hands to the roaring approval of the crowd. Then Dusty took the microphone and issued a challenge to The Road Warriors: Dusty and Buzz vs. The Road Warriors in a tag team match.

a job well done—and the fans continued to cheer. Happily, there were as many cheers for Buzz as there were for Dusty.

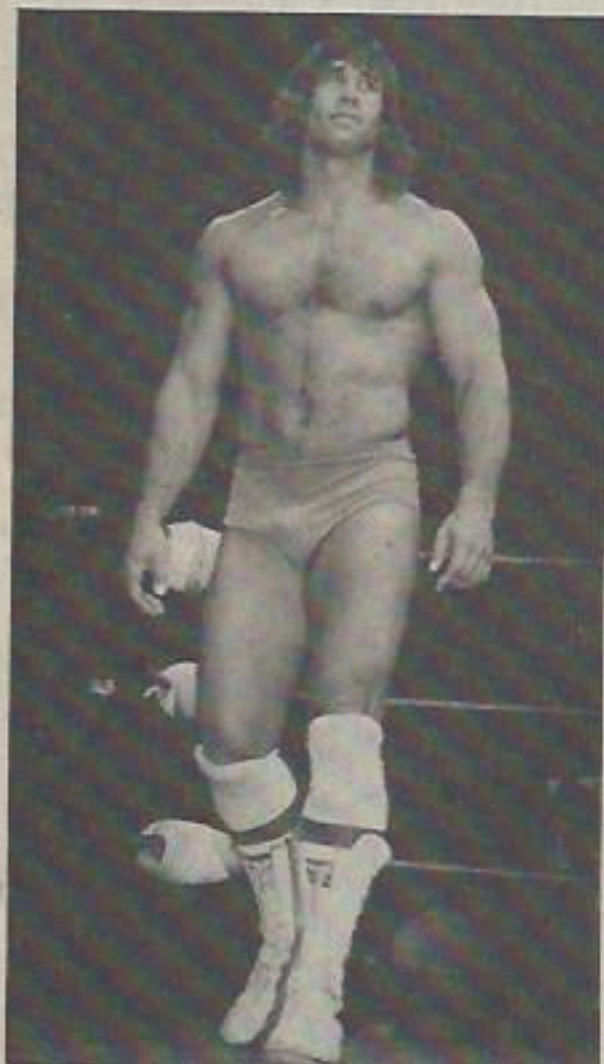
—B.W. Foreman

**H**OUSTON, TX—By the time you read this, the result will have been known for weeks, but as of this writing the entire state of Texas is building their anticipation of what could be the match of the year: Michael Hayes vs.



Kerry Von Erich ... inside a steel cage ... loser leave town for a full year!

During a televised interview in which Freebird Hayes ranted and raved about the Von Erichs being cowards, Fritz Von Erich made a rare television appearance and maintained that he was sick and tired of all the nonsense. "On



**KERRY VON ERICH**

Thanksgiving night it's loser leave Texas for one year, me against Kerry," Hayes said.

After that comment, Fritz took a key out of his pocket and told Hayes that it would be a Cage Match. Hayes went wild, screaming that he did not want a Cage Match, but Fritz pointed out that Hayes had no choice because he had signed an open contract.

"This is finally it," Kerry Von Erich told *The Tattler*, "this is going to be the end of The Fabulous Freebirds. With Hayes out of the state for a full year, David and Kevin and I will be able to eliminate Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts with ease. Like dominoes in a row, The Freebirds will fall."

—James Washington □

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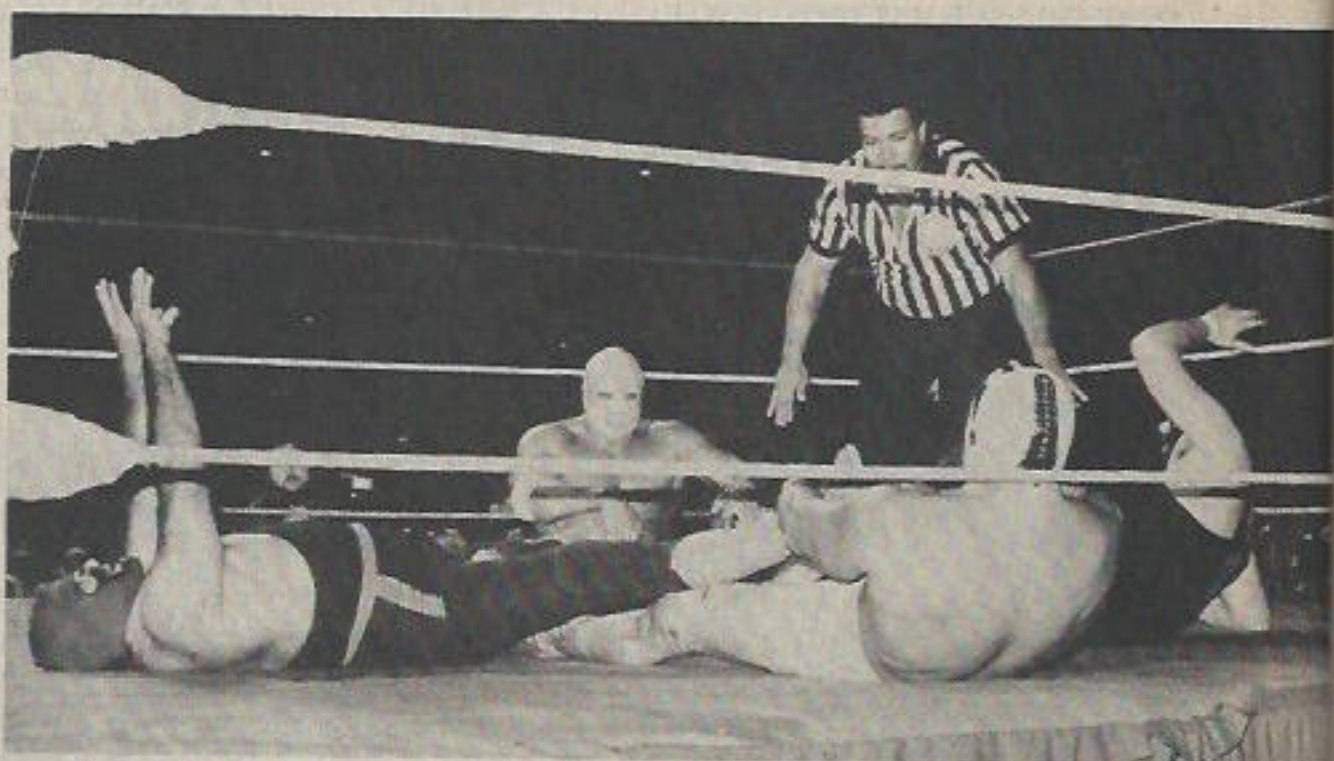
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## MASCARAS-CARAS

(Continued from page 33)



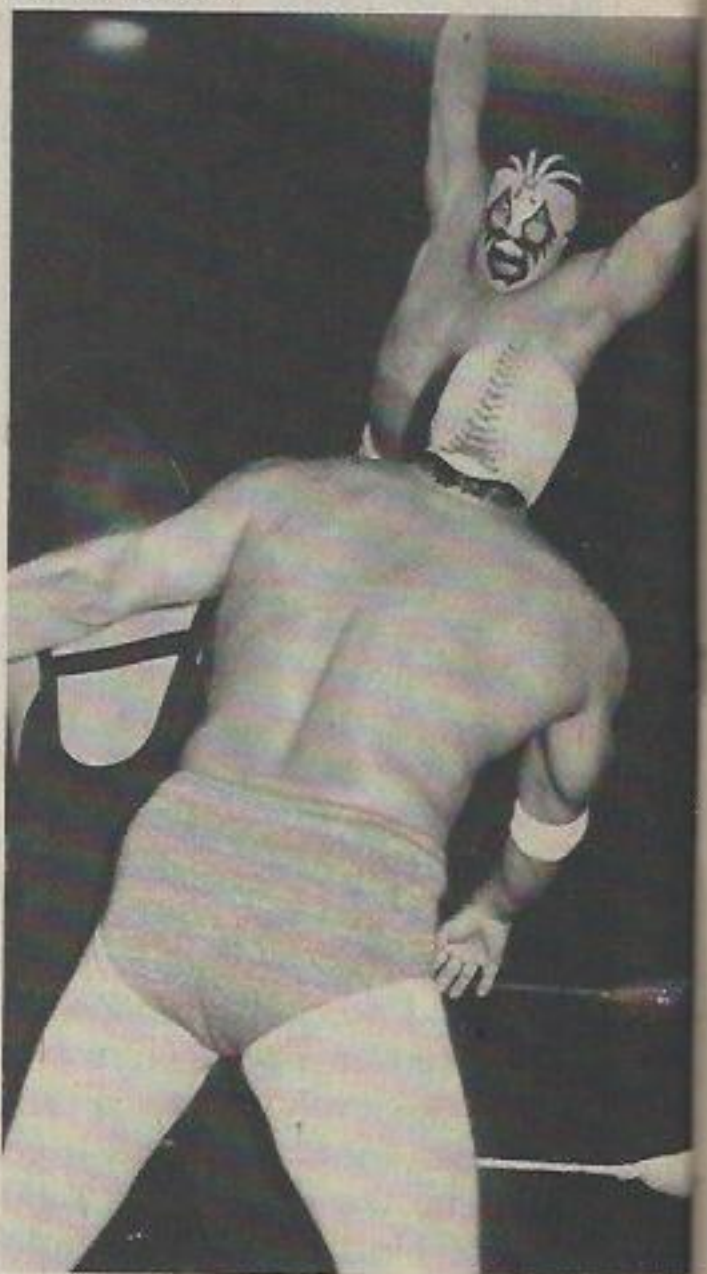
stead, when he's in trouble, and there are times in a match when everyone is in trouble, he becomes my little brother. I overreact, behave stupidly, and screw things up. We beat the Infernos last night not because we were a team but because we were two accomplished individuals. We were also lucky. You can't survive in wrestling depending on luck.

"The tragedy is that if I could control myself, we'd be a great team. I know that sounds immodest, but it's true. Physically, we're well suited for each other. Usually, in tag team wrestling, it's the men who are unlike who succeed. Each brings different skills to the team. We have similar skills, but we make it work for us. I'm not sure why, but you don't want to analyze success; you're just grateful it happens. You should see us when we train. It's fantastic! Of course, when we train, I'm not worried about Dos getting hurt."

That's only one part of the problem. Dos Caras believes the fault with the team lies with himself, not his brother.

"By saying it's his fault," Caras says, "Mil is still protecting his little brother. I'm the one responsible for the failure. No sooner than we get in the ring, I can feel it happening. I suddenly get this incredible

Mascaras and Caras displayed flashes of brilliant teamwork. The brothers "row the boat" with the hated Infernos (above). Caras sets Inferno II up for his flying brother (below).



need to prove myself to Mil. I go crazy trying to impress my older brother. I take risks that are so stupid I'm angry at myself while I do them. I can't help it. I'm driven to impress Mil. I want to win the



match by myself, proving to my older brother I'm somebody. Look, I know it takes two men to win a tag team match. Watch me with anybody else. It's just with Mil that I go stupid.

"If I could have one wish, it would be that Mil and I would be a great tag team. I love wrestling with him. He brings out the best in me as well as the worst. There were moments against the Infernos when I was in the zone. You know what that means? When everything is working perfectly, when it seems so easy because everything tried is successful, it's called wrestling in the zone. It's a magic time. I once asked Mil what you do if your opponent is in the zone. He said, 'The only thing you can do is hope to survive until he leaves.' Anyway, when I wrestle with Mil, there are moments when I'm in the zone."

While both brothers shoulder the blame for their failure, neither man wants to surrender. After the Infernos, as always after a match that doesn't please them, they decided to go their separate ways for a while. They acknowledged that they weren't ready to become a tag team. In a parting that was bitter-sweet, they wished each other luck and went to different battlefields.

As always after a match they considered a disaster, the brothers vowed that it would be best not to try again. They might as well face the fact that they'll never become a tag team. Neither will ever let the past stop influencing the future. And there are parts of that past neither man wants to lose.

At the same time, both men left with videocassettes of the match. There would be no reason to take them if they didn't plan to study what happened, try to correct the mistakes, and make plans for the future.

Don't expect to see Dos Caras and Mil Mascaras team up soon. At the same time, don't be surprised when they eventually try again. □

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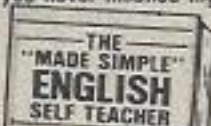
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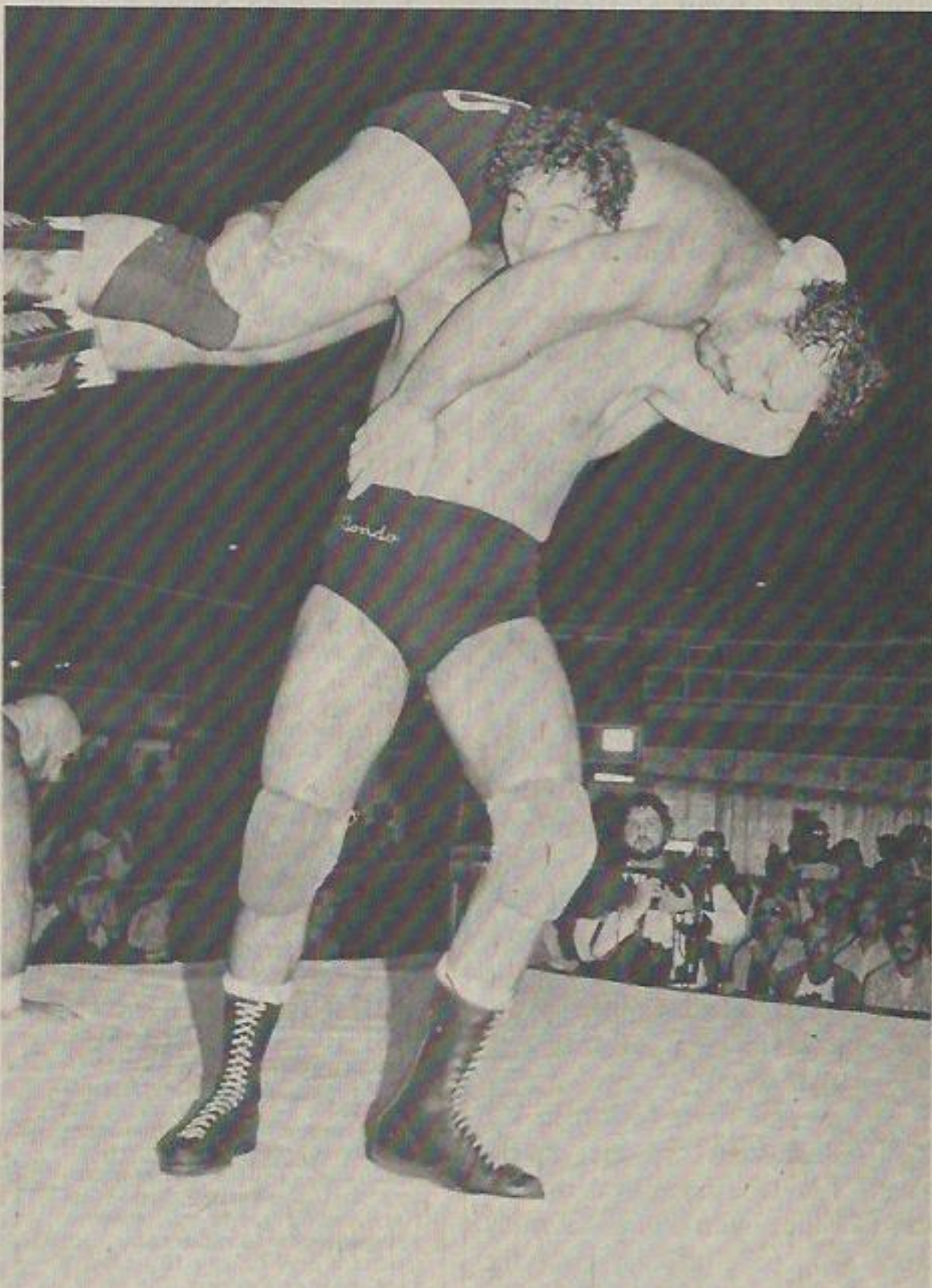
(Continued from page 10)

a lot of confidence. He knows he's got the talent. Thank God there's somebody around who's gonna be able to get that sissy Adrian Street out of here. Al Perez is the man. He can handle the job."

Helen Crandell, Kansas City, KS: "Angelo Mosca Jr. has just started here in Kansas City, and he looks

get his father's bad temper, though, and I hope he never does."

Tammy Mason, Orlando, FL: "A year ago, I would have said Barry Windham, but I guess you can't classify him as a young wrestler anymore. Then I have to go with Mike Rotondo. I saw him wrestle Ron Bass, and Mike was every bit



Mike Rotondo lifts Ron Bass for an airplane spin, the Southern champion's favorite finishing maneuver. Tammy Mason of Orlando, Florida, calls Rotondo her favorite young wrestler.

real good. I guess he's learned a lot from his father. It has to be a big help to be exposed to the sport for so many years. I'm glad he didn't

as good as Bass. He's got a lot of talent, and from what I hear, he's also a really nice guy. That's a good combination." □



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## SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 18)

The Medics; 6—The Assassins; 7—Ole & Gene Anderson; 8—Miguel Perez & Pete Sanchez; 9—George & Sandy Scott; 10—Stan & Paul Vachon.

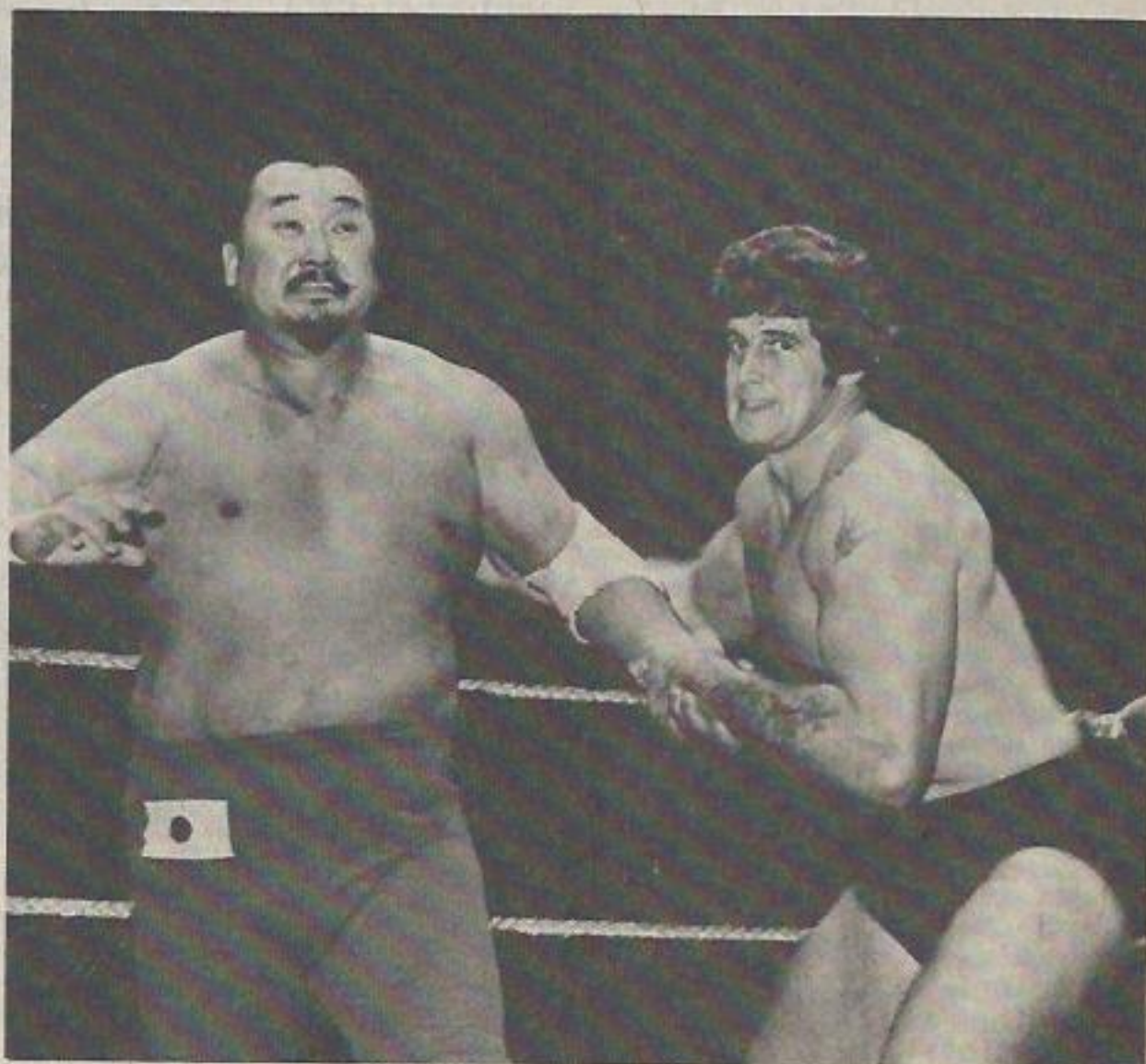
## NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 1973

The WWF experienced a major shakeup, as its two major titles changed hands ... Tony Garea regained a share of the WWF tag team championship with a new partner, Dean Ho. Garea and Haystacks Calhoun had lost the belts to Mr. Fuji and Toru Tanaka a month earlier. After a month of training, Garea and Ho were granted a non-title match on television by the Japanese champions, which they won. The following week, Garea and Ho won the titles ... Heartpunch expert Stan Stasiak dethroned WWF champion Pedro Morales on Decem-

ber 1 at the Philadelphia Arena, ending Pedro's 22-month title reign. Stasiak held the championship only one week before being beaten by former champion



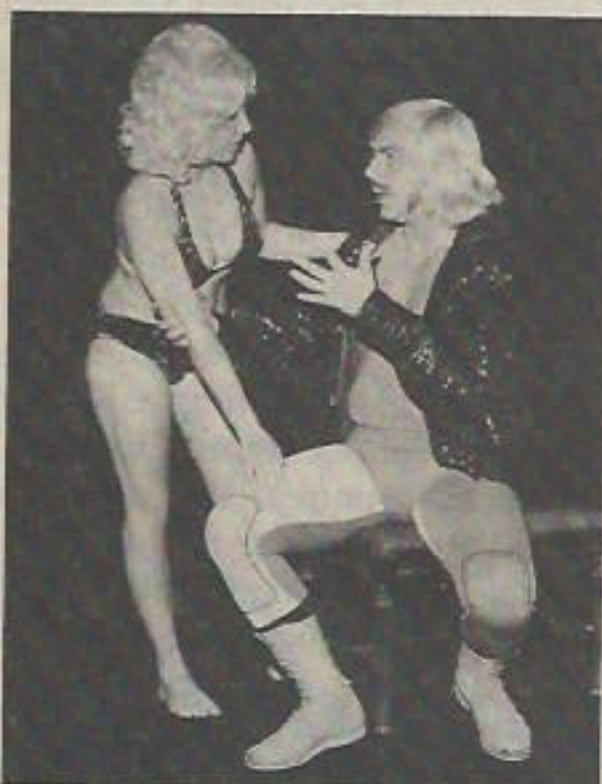
Stan Stasiak dethroned WWF champion Pedro Morales in the Philadelphia Arena. Pedro had held the belt 22 months after defeating Ivan Koloff in February 1971.



Tony Garea whips Mr. Fuji into the ropes. Garea and Dean Ho won the WWF tag team title from Fuji and Prof. Tanaka.



Bruno Sammartino in New York's Madison Square Garden ... Rookie referee Bobby Lane was attacked by Cyclone Negro during Negro's match with Dario Romero. The ref was bodyslammed and piledriven by the wrestler ... The West Coast feud between "The Golden Greek," John Tolos and Victor Rivera continued. Doctors warned both wrestlers that their brutal bloodbaths would not only ruin their careers, but also their lives ... After firing Miss Sherri, Bobby Shane, in conjunction with *The Wrestler*, ran a



Bobby Shane trains his new valet, Mary Davidson. After Shane fired the beautiful Miss Sherri, he selected a replacement through a contest conducted by our sister publication *The Wrestler*.

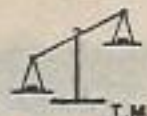
contest to find a new valet. The winner: Mary Davidson of Savannah, Georgia ... A bloody Russian Chain Match punctuated a brutal Florida feud between Boris Malenko and Dusty Rhodes ...

**NWA RATINGS:** 1—Jack Brisco; 2—Terry Funk; 3—Paul Jones; 4—Dory Funk Jr.; 5—The Sheik; 6—Pat Patterson; 7—Gene Kiniski; 8—Dutch Savage; 9—Harley Race; 10—Tim Woods.

**AWA RATINGS:** 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Billy Graham; 3—Crusher; 4—Ray Stevens; 5—Billy Robinson; 6—Wahoo McDaniel; 7—Ivan Koloff; 8—Nick Bockwinkel; 9—Red Bastien; 10—

(Continued on page 64)

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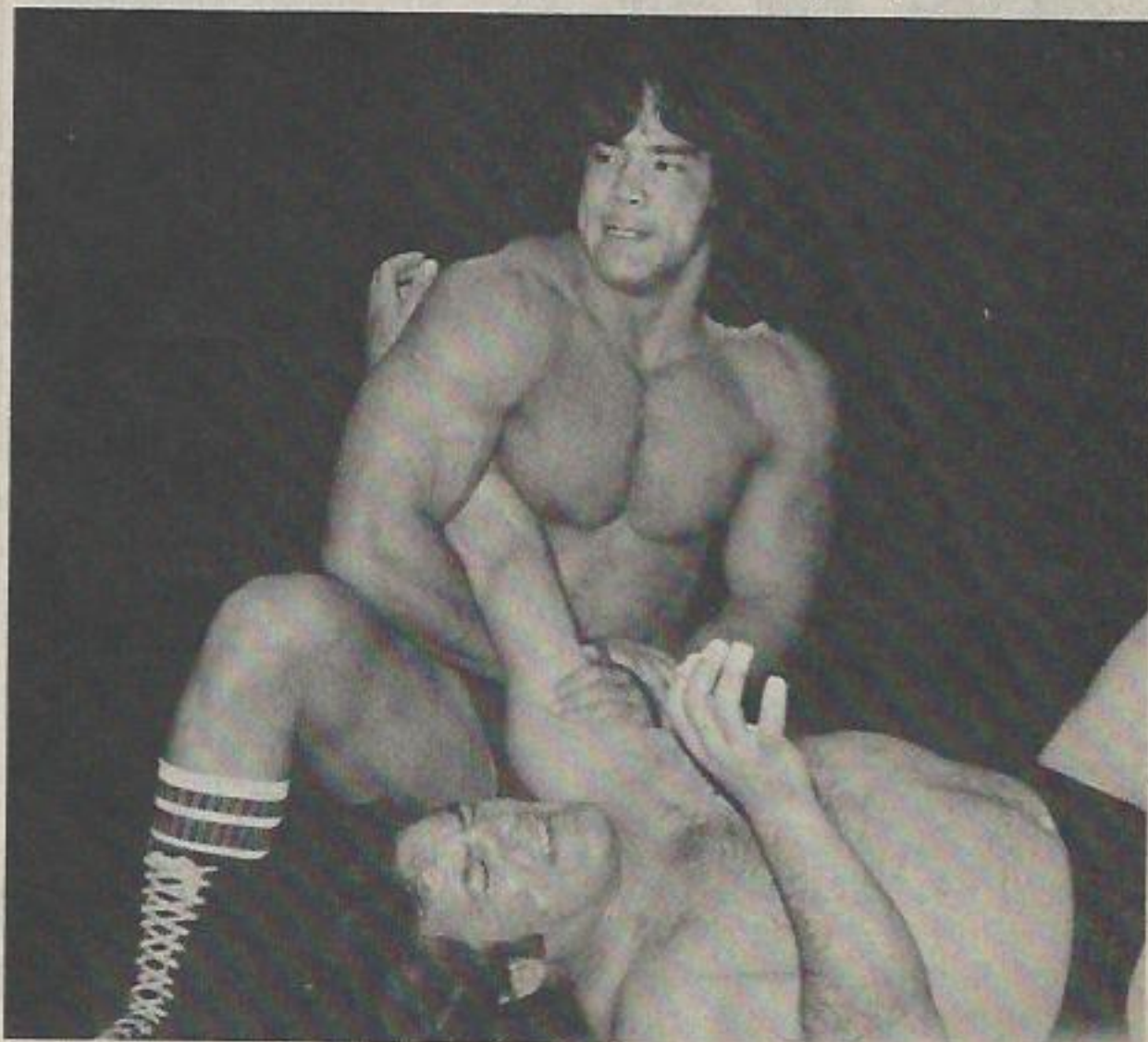
(Continued from page 63)

Ken Patera. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Pedro Morales; 3—Chief Jay Strongbow; 4—Stan Stasiak; 5—Don Leo Jonathan; 6—Nikolai Volkoff; 7—Blackjack Lanza; 8—Gorilla Monsoon; 9—Tony Garea; 10—Dean Ho. TAG TEAMS: 1—Tony Marino & Fred Curry; 2—Dean Ho & Tony Garea; 3—Bruiser & Bruno Sammartino; 4—The Fabulous Kangaroos; 5—Dutch Savage & Jimmy Snuka; 6—Bobby Shane & Gorgeous George Jr.; 7—The LeDuc Brothers; 8—Lord Al Hays & Roger Kirby; 9—Mike George & Jim Brunzell; 10—Victor Rivera & Raul Mata.

### NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 1978

AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel warned Jim Brunzell that his association with Verne and Greg Gagne would ruin his professional wrestling career ...

WWF President Willie Gilzenberg died at age 77 ... First the first time in his career, Andre the Giant demanded a title shot. NWA World champion Harley Race said he would consider it ... Former WWF champion Superstar Billy Graham trained for a match against Missouri State titlist Dick the Bruiser ... David and Kevin Von Erich established a loyal following in St. Louis as they began appearing at the Kiel Auditorium in singles and in tag team competition ... Jimmy Snuka, appearing in the Mid-Atlantic area, expressed a desire to wrestle for Ric Flair's U.S. title ... Tag team partners Rick Steamboat and Paul Jones split up after they found themselves to be the last two men in the ring during a Battle Royal. Steamboat wanted to split the prize money, but Jones wanted it all, so the two fought for the prize. Jones bloodied Steamboat, spit on him, and then



Rick Steamboat places an armlock on Paul Jones. Jones' greed broke up what had been the most effective tag team in the Mid-Atlantic.



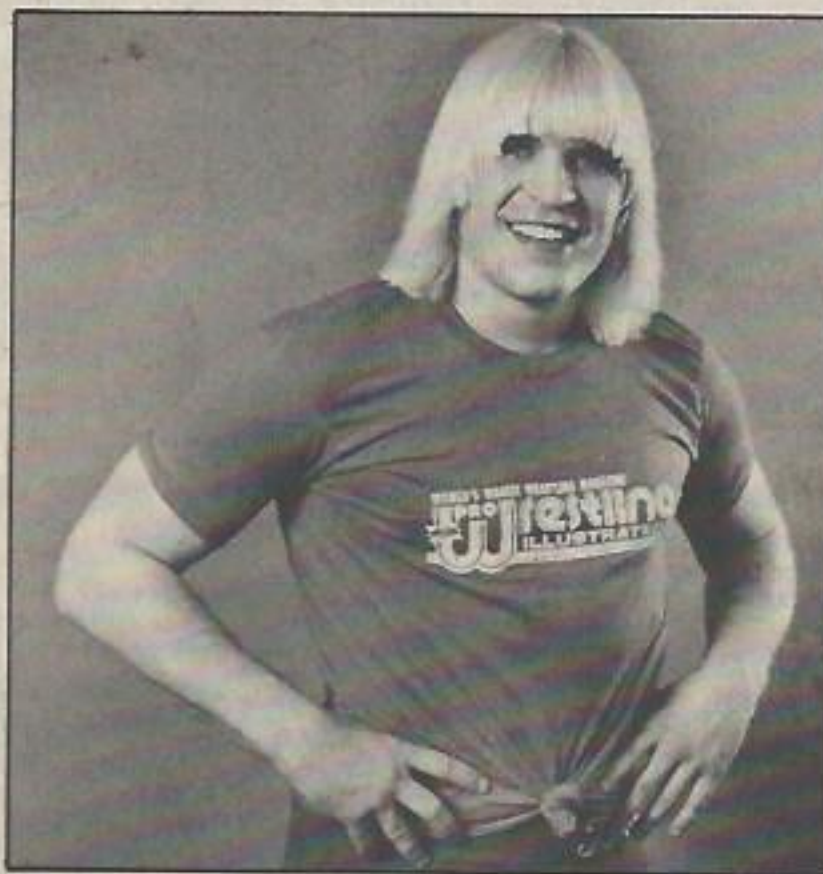


Georgia champion Mr. Wrestling II, the NWA's sixth-ranked contender, wrestled to a memorable one-hour draw with Masked Superstar.

left the ring ... The Masked Superstar extended newly crowned Georgia champion Mr. Wrestling II to a one-hour time-limit draw ... NWA RATINGS: 1—Harley Race; 2—Dusty Rhodes; 3—Ric Flair; 4—Ken Patera; 5—Dick Slater; 6—Mr. Wrestling II; 7—Rick Steamboat; 8—Jack Brisco; 9—Bruiser; 10—Gino Hernandez. AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Billy Robinson; 3—Verne Gagne; 4—Crusher; 5—Greg Gagne; 6—Jim Brunzell; 7—Ray Stevens; 8—Pat Patterson; 9—Super Destroyer II; 10—Bobby Duncum. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—Peter Maivia; 4—Ivan Koloff; 5—Dusty Rhodes; 6—Ivan Putski; 7—Ernie Ladd; 8—Chief Jay Strongbow; 9—Victor Rivera; 10—Spiros Arion. TAG TEAMS: 1—Pat Patterson & Ray Stevens; 2—Greg Valentine & Baron Von Raschke; 3—Tony Garea & Larry Zbyszko; 4—The Valiant Brothers; 5—Dory Funk Jr. & Terry Funk; 6—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell; 7—Kevin & David Von Erich; 8—Pak Song & Mr. Uganda; 9—Black Gordman and Goliath; 10—Victor Rivera & Spiros Arion. ☐

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